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A
JOURNAL
OF THE
BLOCKADE AND SIEGE
OF
GIBRALTAR.

FROM THE
TWELFTH OF SEPTEMBER, 1779,
TO THE
TENTH OF MARCH 1783.

CONTAINING
A MINUTE DETAIL OF THE MEMORABLE
AND INTERESTING TRANSACTIONS,
NAVAL AND MILITARY OBSERVATIONS;
INTERSPERSED WITH
HISTORICAL ACCOUNTS OF THE GARRISON,
GENUINE AND ENTERTAINING
ANECDOTES, &c. &c.

BY SAMUEL ANCELL,
SERJEANT AND CLERK TO THE 58TH REGIMENT.

WRITTEN IN THE GARRISON.

THE FOURTH EDITION.

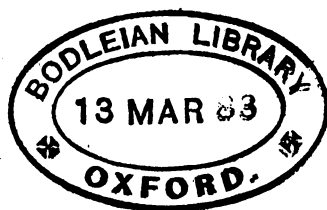
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1793.

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TO HIS EXCELLENCY

J O H N F A N E,

Earl of Westmorland,

LORD LIEUTENANT GENERAL,

A N D

GENERAL GOVERNOR OF IRELAND;

GRAND MASTER

OF THE

ORDER OF St. PATRICK.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,

THE following Sheets, containing the
Events of the late memorable SIEGE of
GIBRALTAR, written by a SOLDIER,
during the continuance of the *Blockade* and
Bombardment, in the intervals of rest from
Public Duty, are,

With the most profound Respect,

I N S C R I B E D B Y

Your EXCELLENCY's

Most obedient humble Servant,

**KILKENNY,
12th Feb. 1793.**

Samuel Ancell,

SERGEANT, 58TH REGT.

TO THE READER.

THE great indulgence the following Letters have experienced from a generous Public, demand the AUTHOR's most warm and grateful Acknowledgments; who feels himself happy in having the opportunity to THANK the numerous patronizers of his Labours.

IT were needless to offer an Apology, after the candid reception the Work has been favoured with; yet, as many will peruse this Edition, who had not the opportunity of inspecting the former, it is necessary to mention, that at the Time of inditing they were not intended for the Press, nor would they have been presented to the Public, but from repeated solicitation.—Importunity prevailed.—The recital of the various Occurrences, and momentous Events, as they were *written* and *felt* amidst all the rage of War, Hurry, and Confusion, made their first appearance at *Liverpool* in

in 1784, and experienced a successful and rapid Sale, notwithstanding their want of that elegance of Diction, which works of *labour* and *study* are embellished with.

THIS testimony of PUBLIC APPROBATION has induced the AUTHOR (the first Writer, and who has not borrowed or copied from other Publications) to continue them in their *Original Stile*, and to submit this Edition to the CANDOUR of his Readers; who, it is hoped, will overlook any *inaccuracies* they may meet with, especially when they consider, that a Soldier's business is DISCIPLINE, and not LITERARY FAME.

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AN
AUTHENTIC JOURNAL
OF THE
BLOCKADE and SIEGE
OF
GIBRALTAR.

LETTER I.

Gibraltar. 1779

DEAR BROTHER,

I SHOULD think myself wanting in affection
and gratitude did I not favour you with
the particulars of every thing deserving notice,
during the approaching siege; but from the
duty

1779 duty of a soldier, (being mostly under arms, Sept. or with working parties,) many matters of a trifling nature, probably may escape my knowledge; do not therefore expect this Journal to be elaborately filled with trivial daily occurrences, but depend upon receiving a full account of every transaction of a public nature; such as the enemy's motions, firings, vessels engaged, taken, escaped, failed, arrived, batteries erected, destroyed, &c. &c.

12th. A council of war being held yesterday at the *Convent*, at which the field officers and naval commanders assisted, it was resolved unanimously to commence a cannonade on the *Spanish* works; and accordingly this morning, (having previously withdrawn our advanced guards from *Bay Side*, and *Forbes's*) we opened our batteries on the enemy, beginning at *Rock Gun*, down to the *Mole Head*, employing every piece of ordnance that could possibly bear upon them. An officer's lady,* whom curiosity had excited to our batteries, was encouraged to discharge the first gun; and having taken a lighted match, (with an intrepidity not peculiar to the sex) *General Elliott* pronounced, in a true heroic style, "Britons strike home," and immediately every battery and angle bellowed with rage, and vomited forth the most tremendous flames.

At the first discharge our shot dropped short, so that their advanced guards had time to escape to their lines, and their precipitate retreat almost

* The Lady of Lieut. Skinner, Engineer.

almost occasioned a general laugh, to view the 1779
Dons tumbling one over another as they fled Sept.
 from the showers of shot. When the enemy
 had reached their lines, we gave more elevation
 to our guns, and *Fort Barbara* and *St. Phi-
 lippe* received a heavy cannonade, nor were
 any part of the *Spanish* lines neglected. As I
 came up the street about two hours after, from
Waterport, (having been the preceding day and
 night on duty at that post) I could not but re-
 mark the timidity and fearful apprehension
 pictured on the countenance of the inhabi-
 tants, as they minutely expected a furious re-
 turn from the enemy. The *Jews* and *Jewesses*
 exhibited the most descriptive amazement;
 terror had taken such possession of their minds,
 that they sought shelter at the southward, leav-
 ing their houses and effects, (except such as
 were of convenient carriage) exposed to the
 dangers that must have ensued, had the enemy
 opened upon the town. About four in the af-
 ternoon we began to throw shells * into their
 forts, and the enemy, who had secured some
 indifferent retreat from our shot, now found
 themselves most inconveniently annoyed, as
 we often perceived that their guards and par-
 ties were thrown into disorder.

A heavy and incessant fire all night. The 13th.
 enemy appear to be in motion; and our ex-
 pectations lead us to imagine, that, about noon
 they

* A round piece of cast iron, some of 8 and a half,
 10 and 23 inches diameter, hollow in the inside, by which
 they are charged, and a fuze drove in at the mouth, of
 different lengths, according to the distance the shell is in-
 tended to be discharged. When the fuze burns to the
 powder, the shell immediately bursts with great fury.

1779 they will return the compliment. The fearful inhabitants, who sheltered at the southward, 13th. cannot be persuaded to return, but seem happy in their minds, that they are out of the reach of the foe. It was observed to-day that their fortshave received some damage from our firings.

The enemy have not made a return. The uneasiness of the people seem less predominant, and some have ventured to return to their habitations in town. The foe are very busy; they are encamped at the foot of *Santa Roque*, to a great number, with some squadrons of horse; they appear to be about 16,000 men, including the *Catalan* troops; they are beginning to carry fascines * and gabions † to their lines, so that it is beyond dispute they mean to return the fire. When we first received the account, (June 21st) from Gen. *Mendoza*, commandant at *Santa Roque*, of the commencement of hostilities between their Catholic and Britannic majesties, it occasioned a general rumour in the garrison; the Governor and principal officers assembled on the *Grand-Parade*, and every tongue was employed in delivering their opinions. Our advanced guards and lines were reinforced, and detachments of the piquets sent to the weakest places, as we concluded that the enemy would endeavour to surprise the place.

Hostilities

* Wood cut from trees, and bound in bundles, or hoop sticks well soaked in water.

† Pieces of timber, bound with iron hoops, like a cask, and the inclosed part, when placed on a battery, is filled with earth.

Hostilities being thus commenced, General 1779
Elliott, with the advice of the naval commander, Sept.
 issued letters of marque to several privateers in this Port, who immediately went out and captured some small prizes with wine, brandy, and other necessaries, that probably may be much wanted. On the 26th of July, Admiral *Don Barcello*, with two line of battle ships, two frigates, one xebec, and several galleys, anchored off *Cabritta Point*, to keep the Port blockaded. Our cruizers were under the necessity of returning to the bay, and are now laid up, as the enemy are ever watchful of their motions, and our force is too weak to offer an opposition. It is currently reported that *Spain's* intention is to oblige us to surrender by famine; you may therefore conclude, that while the enemy remain masters of the Straits, our situation will be exceedingly disagreeable, and we shall be greatly necessitated for refreshment.

Our Governor is indefatigable in improving the works, particularly those on the heights of the hill, which are most convenient to annoy the enemy, and prevent their approaches.

The enemy are very assiduous; many working parties employed, but we cannot form any judgment of what they are doing. This day a settee,* that seemly stood for the bay, (wind West) was conducted by Admiral *Barcello's* cruizers to *Algaziras*:—This circumstance makes us rather uneasy, as we are apprehensive that many more will share the same fate. This day a serjeant and a Ha-

B

noverian

* A Market Boat.

1779 noverian private, deserted, notwithstanding
Sept. our shot they escaped to the Spanish lines.

30th. The enemy are quiet, but continue a sharp look out in the Gut. This day Admiral *Barcello's* ship was dressed with a variety of colours, and a salvo fired. He rides most magnificently, exulting over a people shut up like poultry in a coop. He is so vain, and so prepossessed with the prospect of our capitulating, that he has ordered each officer under his command, to wear the key of the Straits, with a ribbon pendent from the breast. We may expect the next month will furnish more important intelligence. Whatever happens (if I survive) you may depend upon receiving a minute and circumstantial account, from

Your's affectionately,

LETTER II.

Gibraltar.

DEAR BROTHER,

1779 FAR distant from every endearing friend,
Oct. 9. and the social joys of fellowship, I again take my pen to write to you. Nothing material has happened since my last. The enemy are exceedingly assiduous at work, and we are constantly playing upon their parties with cannon. Admiral *Barcello*, with the strictest vigilance, watches the Gut, and some of his cruizers are mostly stretching from *Ceuta* to *Cabritta Point*, to guard the Offing. We have not received any supplies or intelligence, nor have

have we observed a ship, boat, or settee, from 1779 East to West, endeavour to make the Port Oct. 9. Every thing is getting to so exorbitant a price, that it is almost impossible for a person of a moderate income to purchase what is requisite for sustenance.

This day, a twenty-four pounder was dragged up the face of the Rock to *Midshipman's lookout*, or *Rock-Gun*; the labour and danger attending it is not to be conceived, in the conveyance over the rugged Rock, to a height of 1357 feet.

The Enemy's Force now consists of

AT ALGAZIRAS,

	<i>guns.</i>	<i>men.</i>		<i>guns.</i>	<i>men.</i>
1 ship	70	700	1 xebec	32	250
1 frigate	36	300	1 ditto	28	200

AT CEUTA,

1 ship	60	600	1 xebec	20	180
1 frigate	26	250	1 ditto	14	80
1 xebec	18	200			

CONSTANTLY CRUIZING,

1 xebec	16	100	6 quarter galleys	450
4 smaller		240	20 armed boats	300
6 half-galleys		1000		

ON OUR SIDE ARE AT ANCHOR,

Panthor	60	400	Gibraltar	12	40
Enterprize	28	200	Fortune	10	30
Childers	14	90			
		B. 2			Last

1779 Last night the enemy were excessively hard
 Oct. at work, our batteries poured upon them a
 20th. liberal distribution of shells, notwithstanding
 which, they completed their operations, and
 this morning exhibited to our view three new
 batteries, two of fourteen, and one of seven
 guns, constructed for playing upon our lines
 at *Lampport* and *Waterport*.

30th. No prospect of relief. We begin to think
Britain has forgot that such people are in ex-
 istence. The enemy are quiet, but exceed-
 ing watchful, and labour much at their ap-
 proaches. We cannot form any judgment of
 what they are doing. Our batteries continue
 the cannonade.

This day the *Peace* and *Plenty* privateer,
 being chased to the eastward by a frigate and
 two row galleys, wind at S. E. was unfortu-
 nately driven ashore between the *Devil's Tower*
 and *Fort Barbara*. Our batteries commenced
 a brisk cannonade on the Fort, and dismount-
 ed several of their guns, but notwithstanding,
 the enemy poured into her a prodigious quan-
 tity of round and grape shot. The boatswain
 had his right thigh shot off, and died soon
 after. The captain finding it impossible to get
 her off the bed of sand where she had run
 aground, and grape shot pouring in a conti-
 nual shower from the enemy's batteries, he
 and the crew (having taken out a few things)
 abandoned her, and came in at *Landport*. She
 was detached by General *Murray*, from *Mi-
 norca*, to view our situation, and to learn if
 any supplies were come from *England*. She
 had taken several prizes to the eastward, and
 relates

relates that the troops at *Minorca* are in good health, and want nothing but clothing. 1779 Oct.

Fort Barbara kept all night a fire upon the unfortunate privateer, her hull and rigging is so greatly shattered, that she will never be fit for sea again. The enemy seem to be making preparations for a vigorous attack; they have begun forming several bomb batteries. Our fire is without intermission. Several of our howitzer * shells fell among their working parties, and killed a great number. General *Elliott* continues to increase the fortifications; and working parties from each regiment in the garrison, are employed in erecting traverses † in different parts of the streets to shelter the troops and inhabitants from the enemy's shot. We have not received any supplies either from *England*, *Portugal*, *Tangier*, *Tetuan*, or *Minorca*, nor has a ship appeared standing for the Bay but the *Peace* and *Plenty*. The Spanish cruizers keep hovering in the Offing. We wait the arrival of a fleet with impatience.

Yours &c.

* A piece of ordnance mounted on a carriage like a cannon, which discharges shells in any direction.

† Casks filled with earth, placed three deep, and at sufficient height to cover the head.

LETTER III.

Gibraltar.

DEAR BROTHER,

1779
Nov. I. THE enemy last night fired a carcass† into the privateer which run aground the 30th ult. and in a few hours she was consumed. The enemy continue to work, and we continue to fire. Provision is getting extravagantly dear and scarce: fish and flour are the chief support of the inhabitants. A small string of fish, about the size of a large sprat, eight in number, cost upwards of two shillings English.

This day the bakers shut their doors, and delivered their bread through a wicket, protected by a guard, as the crowds were so pressing, they were under the apprehension of their houses being pulled down; the flour they have in hand will not last, according to computation, more than two months. *Antonio Smilie* (a noted *Genoese* baker) assured me, he had only eighteen barrels of flour to serve himself, family, and the public. The Governor has ordered them to bake but a stipulated quantity daily, which is not half the supply required by the garrison.

It is really grievous to see the fighting of the people for a morsel of bread, at a price not to be credited by those who never knew the hardship of a siege. Men wrestling, women
intreating,

† An iron case with four holes in it, to let out the flames, about the size of a bomb shell, charged with combustibles for setting houses and ships on fire, discharged out of mortars.

intreating, and children crying; a jargon of 1779
all languages piteously pouring forth their Nov.
complaints. The tear of sensibility is copiously
shed, and commiseration mutually exchanged.
What a situation! where humanity is deprived
of the ability to alleviate the innumerable
wants of old and young. When our distresses
will end, time alone can unfold.

Many of the women and children returned
from the baker's this morning, without being
able to procure the smallest relief, and those
who did, obtained it by forcing the timid and
weaker part of the applicants away. A soldier
is strictly forbidden to attend the delivery, ex-
cept when ordered there on duty; so that his
family must be subsisted on his very scanty al-
lowance, if his wife or children should not be
fortunate to get a loaf, which in our present
situation is an agonizing difficulty. The bread
is made from wheat ground without sifting,
oatmeal, and ground pease; and when baked
resembles a brick bat. For one of these small
loaves (bad and gritty as they are, and in size
not bigger than a halfpenny roll) we must pay
an English shilling.

This day arrived a Spanish two-decker from 6th.
the West, and anchored between *Cabritta* and
the battery at *Algizaras*. Several small craft
also arrived.

The enemy are quiet, but busily employed
at work at their bomb batteries. This after-
noon a Spanish frigate sailed from *Algazirus* to
Ceuta.

This morning we observed the enemy had
recalled their working parties from the lines,
and that they were forming fortifications, ex-
tending

1779 tending from *Fort St. Phillippe* to *Point Negro*,
 Nov. as a defence and cover for their camp; this gives us the alluring hope, that they have some intimation of our fleet being at sea. Our batteries are not idle, but keep a well directed fire on their forts and late approaches.

The calls of duty prevent my further writing. Excuse all inaccuracies, and believe that I shall always remain,

Affectionately yours, &c.

LETTER IV.

Gibraltar.

DEAR BROTHER,

9th. SEVERAL days more elapsed amidst expectation and firing, but no prospect of relief. The merchants are getting money apace; for every article they sell they charge their own price. O ye winds be propitious, and quickly waft our floating castles to our relief! Haste and save us from hunger, misery, and death!

The enemy continue their works on the shore, and have forwarded a battery near the guard house, on the right of *St. Phillippe*. Our fire from the batteries has slackened, as the enemy do not appear very numerous in their lines.

12th. Last night came in two deserters from the enemy's * Walloon guards, with their arms, &c. they assert that the enemy have one thousand pieces

* The King of Spain's Body Guards.

pieces of cannon and mortars in their lines, and only wait an order from the court of *Madrid* to fire, that their magazines are full of powder, and that a reinforcement of French troops are hourly expected. They are lodged at his Excellency's house, and I do not doubt but their intelligence will prove advantageous to the operations of our works. They were conducted by the quarter-master general to *Willis's*, and the upper batteries, from which a proper view can be taken of the enemy's works.

Wind N. W. This morning we were led to believe that our fleet was near at hand : the Spanish watch-towers hung out signal-colours, and the battery at *Cabritta Point* fired a gun for their cruizers to get under weigh. A privateer was soon discovered standing for the bay, under all the sail she could croud ; the gun-boats bore down upon, and fired briskly into her, which she returned as spiritedly : two frigates having slipped anchor, stretched across from *Cabritta* to intercept her ; having got within long gun shot, they fired two or three broadsides ; the cutter then tacked and stood for the *Barbary* shore ; the frigates followed, and soon drove to leeward ; she then tacked and stood again for the garrison, when a third frigate and a xebec pushed out, and likewise dropped to leeward, while the cutter kept her course : Admiral *Barcello* then hove too under *Cabritta*, with an intent to keep the windward gage : the bravadoing, blustering, and vigilant *Barcello*, in the *St. Jean Baptiste* of 70 guns, eagerly bore down, and having got within half cannon shot, poured into her his whole

1779. whole broadside, which the cutter returned ;
 Nov. he then made signal for the gun-boats and
 14th. gallies to board, but when they had rowed pretty near, the hardy crew gave them such a warm reception, that they were compelled to retire. The Spanish admiral having fallen to leeward, endeavoured to work up again, but not being able, on account of the fresh breeze at N. W. was, to his no small mortification, under the necessity of going to the eastward, with the remainder of his cruisers. She proves to be the *Buck of Folkstone*, Captain Fagg, in nineteen days from *England*. On his dropping anchor at *New Mole*, the numerous spectators from the batteries and walls, gave him three cheers, and the General on his landing paid him the highest commendation for his conduct and bravery.—The seamen relate a humorous account of Captain Fagg.

Arrived a settee with thirty-eight bullocks from *Tangier* ; two others were taken by the enemy's gun-boats, one of which had a packet for the garrison ; they were kept so long on board before they could get in, that they were nearly perished : their flesh, when killed, was like a jelly, and sold for three rials * and eight quarts per pound.

The wind having shifted, Admiral *Barcello* and his squadron returned to their station : they keep a sharp look out from *Cabritta*, being determined not to be beat again in so shameful a manner.

This

* A rial is a piece of Spanish coin, Gibraltar currency, eight-pence value, equal to four-pence three farthings sterling. A quart is a Spanish half-penny, forty of which is given in change for an English shilling.

This day four *Portuguese* who were privately 1779
 dispatched by the Governor to fetch a packet Nov.
 from *Faro*, returned safe; they had a small 24th.
 boat which the *Moors* permitted them to carry
 on Camels over rocks and mountains, and
 having launched it in a creek under *Apes Hill*,
 they stole over in the night. We flatter our-
 selves there is good news, as the General and
 principal officers appeared to be in high spirits.

This morning came in a deserter from the 30th.
 enemy, and this evening another; they both,
 belonged to the Walloon guards, and brought
 their arms with them: the latter was pursued
 by three horsemen, and would have been taken,
 had not our people been very alert at *Willis's*, in
 pouring in grape * shot upon the pursuers.

The enemy are bringing down great quan- Dec. 1.
 tities of fascines to the lines, and are again
 labouring at their advanced works, but do not
 seem disposed to turn out fire. Last night came
 in two deserters from the Walloon Guards;
 they report that the enemy are not to fire while
 they can keep the place blockaded, as General
Alvarez is confident that famine will oblige us
 to surrender. We are certainly greatly distressed
 for want of fresh provision and vegetables.—
 Salt meat, which is sold for two rials, and
 two and a half *per* pound, is difficult to be
 procured. Yesterday a baker was obliged to
 shut up, not having flour sufficient for his fa-
 mily for one month. Appearances are rather
 dreadful. God grant that a fleet may soon
 arrive, or the consequences will be truly
 dreadful. Came

* Shot of a pound and a half, and two pound weight, a
 number of them put in a tin case, and fired, which scatters
 at the discharge many yards.

1779 Dec. 8. Came in a deserter from the Walloon guards. He was closely pursued by two horsemen, but our batteries made them retreat. He says, that the Spanish army are much distressed in camp for fresh water, and that a great many die of the flux, occasioned by drinking of the salt springs.

14th. This morning we perceived two men run out of the Spanish lines, and presently after two horsemen followed, and having overtaken them, they killed one on the spot, and secured the other, notwithstanding our fire.— Last night deserted two Hanoverians of *De la Motte's* regiment. They escaped to the enemy from *Europa Advance Guard*, by means of a rope ladder, which was accidentally left by the King's workmen.

15th. This morning the enemy executed the deserter they took yesterday. All their regiments were under arms.

19th. Garrison orders this day were as follow :

" No gun to be fired from any of the batteries at the enemy's ships, when the distance requires more than six degrees elevation, unless such ships are engaging, or in chase. Any Captain of the Royal Artillery, who may happen to be present on such occasions, will give his advice in the management of the guns, which the officers commanding guards will be justified in following."

21st. Last night sailed the Buck privateer for Mahon, wind S. W.

27th. This day the enemy began a fire upon our outward works. They obliged the garrison gardeners,

gardeners, who work on the isthmus, or neck of land (termed the neutral ground) to retire. Several *Gemeuse* fishermen, who were dragging nets at the sea side, was also under the necessity of retreating, leaving their nets, lines, and tackle, on the beach. A twenty-six pound shot fell at the north angle of Prince's lines; the centinel narrowly escaped. The enemy are very busy—their approaches are in great forwardness, but are all masked; their bomb batteries appear to have no ordnance mounted, nor has it been observed that any number of men have been employed there for some time past. We conjecture that this day is only a preface, or introduction to the grand display, and that the long boasted exhibitions are nearly ready for performance.

The enemy last night destroyed great part of our gardens, and took away lines, &c. that our fishermen left when they made their retreat yesterday. Came in a small boat from *Tangier*, with goats, fowls, and eggs: she immediately ran in under cover of the night. The goats sold for ten * cobbs per head; fowls three † dollars six rials per couple; eggs, six rials per dozen. Also came in three deserters from the *Walloon* guards. It is currently reported that the intelligence they bring is not altogether favourable to our wishes. We hope the fleet will shortly arrive, and that we may

* A Spanish dollar, value four shillings and eight pence sterling at Gibraltar, is called a dollar and a half, or 12 rials, but is of no more value.

† Eight rials each, Gibraltar currency.

1779. may be enabled to give the enemy a British
Dec. reception whenever they attack our walls.

30. The enemy continue the blockade, but keep constantly at work ; their parties are very numerous, but we cannot make them desist ; they have broken down all their stone guard-houses, and seem to be converting them into works of annoyance. We may expect that the ensuing year will be fertile with intelligence, and that we shall be able to give a more descriptive account of their approaches.

It is really vexing and mortifying to view the Spanish hills and heights, covered with cattle, while we can scarce procure a piece of salt beef, and that at a price, which, when told, carries with it the face of improbability.

I am, dear Brother,

Affectionately your's, &c.

LETTER V.

Gibraltar.

DEAR BROTHER,

1780. **I** AGAIN take the pen to write, though I
Jan. 7. assure you, our most sanguine hope seems entirely lost. Last night came in two deserters of the Walloon guards ; from the accounts they bring, we expect to have many more months to suffer ; they say that the Spaniards engaged our fleet off *Cape Finister*, that the English were defeated, and a great many ships captured. Yesterday arrived some fresh troops
in

in their camp, and this afternoon, a small boat 1780.
that made a push for the garrison, was taken Jan. 7.
off *Cabritta point*; it is not improbable that she
was detached with intelligence for this place,
as she did not appear to be deeply laden.

A Neapolitan polacre, laden with barley, 8th.
having approached within the reach of *Europa*
guns, we discharged a few shot at her, and
obliged her to come in; she will afford us
some relief:—Admiral *Barcello* made a signal
immediately for a frigate and a xebec to
cruise to the eastward—they passed by within
long gun shot of the garrison.

Several random shot from the enemy, but 11th.
no material damage done; they seem to have
a great inclination to begin the work.—We
keep a moderate fire upon their parties and
works.

The enemy continue to fire occasionally—a 12th.
shot struck the parapet of the *Old Mole*—a 26
pound shot (the first fired into the garrison)
went through the roof of Mr. *Quartin's* house,
and drove a splinter into a lady's heel * who
was walking in the street;—another went
through a centry box in *Landport* covered-way:
A mule belonging to the waggons employed
to bring stone from the *Devil's Tower*, was
lamed by their firing: and the enemy, in an
unprecedented manner, inhumanly fired at a
clergyman performing the funeral ceremony
over the body of a deceased soldier.

This day the Field Officers commanding 13th.
corps, assembled at Colonel *Ross's* quarters, to
take into consideration the present situation of
the garrison provisions; when it was ordered
that

* Mrs. Hamilton.

1780. that the soldiers ration should be shortened;
Jan. viz. half-pound beef, quarter-pound pork, and one pint pease per week; deducted from each man's allowance.

15th. Our situation every day appears more alarming, there being a scarcity of almost every thing in the garrison—fire-wood a cob per hundred; flour five rials per pound; no fresh meat except an old cow, or worn-out ox, (only one perhaps killed in a month) which is sold at four and a half and five rials per pound; fowls twenty to twenty-four rials each; a goose ten dollars; a turkey twenty dollars; eggs a cob the dozen; and every other necessary in proportion.

This morning a foldier deserted from the back of the Rock, where he was with a party cutting bushes. We fired many shots at him, but all were ineffectual.

This afternoon, wind S. W. an English brig appeared in the Offing; she was chased by a xebec and several gallies, but fortunately got safe into *New Mole*: She brings the joyful and happy intelligence of a fleet being within twenty-four hours sale of the garrison, with succours.

It is almost beyond the power of words to describe the general joy which pervaded the soldiery as well as the inhabitants upon this gladdening intelligence—even avarice and extortion seem to pause from their iniquities, and to participate the pleasure inspired by our hopes.

I am, &c.

LETTER

LETTER VI.

Gibraltar.

DEAR BROTHER,

THE garrison are all on the wing :—the 1780
 sound of the fleet is all that is to be heard, Jan. 16
 and every rock and hill re-echoes the blissful
 tidings. Affection stretches forward and anti-
 cipates the pleasures of knowing the tender
 communications of distant friends and separa-
 ted kindred. This morning flour sold for six-
 pence per pound, which was some time past
 two shillings, and a great favour to obtain it
 at that price; the shops that were shut up,
 are now opened, and adorned with bread,
 biscuit, rusk, &c. The garrison appears in an
 entire state of joyful commotion, and the peo-
 ple are so busy purchasing eatables, that it
 brings to my remembrance the festive fairs in
 Britain. The enemy have hung out signal-
 colours from the watch-towers; not a ship nor
 cruizer on the opposite side attempts to move.
 I believe the scene is changed without, as well
 as within the walls. *Barcello* must feel, with
 inexpressible pangs, this sudden stroke that
 robs him of the hope of conquest, and com-
 pels him to view the British ensigns that bid
 defiance to *Andalusia's* shore.

Came in a deserter from the Walloon
 guards. Intelligence not publicly known.

Last night arrived (unmolested) a brig laden 17th.
 with flour; she left the British convoy two
 days since, and brings word, that they have
 taken a Spanish convoy of one ship of the
 line,

1780 line, five frigates, and twenty-four fail of
Jan. transports, bound from *Bilboa* to *Cadiz*. We hourly wait their arrival. According to the order of the 13th instant, our ration was stopped.

18th. This morning came in the *Appollo* frigate. She brings the intelligence that several Spanish men of war got under sail from *Cadiz*, to engage our fleet, that the British were victorious, and that the enemy had one ship sunk, one blown up, one stranded, and four captured, *glorious news!*—Received half a pint of rice in lieu of pease.

19th. Last night two English men of war arrived, and confirm the news above. About six this morning came in, the *Phoenix*, a *Spanish* 80 gun ship, commanded by Admiral *Don Langara*, who received a wound in his groin during the engagement: she lost her main top-mast and other rigging during the action. The British fleet having stood too near to the *Barbary* shore, over-shot the bay, and drove to eastward in the night, and it is probable it will be two or three days before they can work up. The Spanish Admiral came ashore this evening.

21st. Wind E. Came in three Spanish 70 gun ships, one a Commodore, also the *Guiposcoana*, a 64, taken with the *Bolboa* convoy, and a great part of our fleet; they are so thick I cannot number them with any precision. About eleven this forenoon came in the *Prince George*, commanded by Admiral *Digby*, with *Prince William Henry* on board. Admirals *Rodney* and *Ross* are standing for the Rock. Our shipping have taken to the eastward two xebecs,

xebecs, and a great many settees bound for 1780 the camp of St. Roque. Prince William Henry Jan. landed, accompanied by the Admiral; the 21st. Governor received them with the warmest encomiums, and the garrison and shipping performed a salute.

The Spanish Squadron, commanded by Admiral *Don Juan de Langara, Gefe de Esquadra*, which Admiral *Rodney* fell in with off St. Mary's, are as follow :

Phoenix,	80 guns.	} Taken and brought in here.
Diligente,	70 do.	
Monarca,	70 do.	
Princessa,	70 do.	
St. Domingo,	70 do.	blown up.
St. Eugenio,	70 do.	taken, then abandoned.
St. Julian,	70 do.	stranded.
St. Lorenzo,	70 do.	} Escaped.
St. Augustin,	70 do.	
Santa Rosalia,	26 do.	
Santa Cecilia,	28 do.	

Last night, about eleven o'clock, the Ter- 22d. rible man of war, and four other ships, being drove by the rapidity of the current, near the enemy's forts *Phillipe* and *Negro*, they beat to arms in their camp, and made a position of defence; they fired 157 shot and 7 shells, but did no other damage than killing a Spanish prisoner on board the Terrible. This day the Spanish Commodore landed.

Wind W. Took a settee going to Ceuta. 23d.

This day the troops received their beef and 24th. pork, stopped last week. All hands at work unloading the shipping—Several cranes have been erected from *South-port* to the *New Mole*.

1780* The enemy this morning fired two shot towards the garrison, one grazed North line-
 25th. wall guard-house. About eight this morning, a corporal and five private men of the Walloons who made a push for the garrison, were pursued by a party of horse and foot, more than half way across the isthmus—two of the men they knocked down with the butts of their firelocks, pierced them several times with their bayonets. The Corporal they secured, and carried him and one of the dead bodies away in triumph. The other three escaped the massacre, and arrived safe at *Landport*.

Arrived from the East this morning, Admiral *George Bridges Rodney*, and several other ships. This day we received three flags of truce, respecting the exchange of prisoners.

26th. This morning we perceived the Spanish infantry under arms; soon after observed a gibbet erected, and a criminal executed. It is beyond dispute, that the unhappy sufferer is the Corporal they took yesterday on the isthmus. This afternoon the *Fortune* cutter, under a flag of truce, conveyed the sick and wounded prisoners to the *Orange Grove*, where the enemy received them. Came in, and anchored in the Bay, Admiral *Lockhart Ross*, with some settée prizes taken to the eastward.

27th. This morning arrived from *Tangier*, a small boat with lemons and oranges;—a most useful article, as they are very salutary in the cure of the scurvy. Came in a Spanish brig. Four Spanish line of battle ships and a 64, are at anchor in the Bay, adorned with the British ensigns.

It

It is easy to imagine the effect which this 1780
mortifying exhibition must have upon the Jan.
mind of *Don Barcello* ; aggravated, no doubt, 27th.
by the disappointed issue to his own threats
and idle vapourings.

Arrived a boat from *Tangier*, with a few 28th.
dozen of fowls. Also a settee with bullocks
and other refreshments from *Tetuan*. One of
our frigates cruising in the Offing, captured a
settee bound for the camp.

This forenoon landed from 4 ships of war, the 29th.
second battalion of the 73d regiment of foot,
under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel
George M'Kenzie : They were under orders for
Minorca, but our Governor, with the advice
of the Admirals, and Field Officers, has detain-
ed them here. This afternoon, wind S. W.
Commodore *Eliott* in the *Edgar*, and a frigate,
gave chase to a ship off *Cabritta*, under Dutch
colours ; which, as soon as she perceived, she
tacked and stood for the land ; *Eliott* bore
down up her, and quickly got within long
gun-shot, when she hoisted *Spanish* colours, and
ran ashore under *Cabritta* : A brisk fire ensued
on both sides, in which the battery at that
place took a part, but Admiral *Rodney* per-
ceiving their situation rather dangerous, hoisted
a signal for them to return. It is imagined
that she was detached with instructions to *Don*
Barcello.

The *Spanish* boats were yesterday afternoon 30th.
employed in endeavouring to get the ship off,
which they did not effect till this morning's
tide. Early this morning came in three de-
serters from the Walloon Guards, they were
naked, having swam from the foot of fort *St.*

1780 *Phillippe*. They report that the Spanish General holds a position of defence every night, as he expects our shipping will fire upon their camp, before they leave the bay. The enemy have mounted artillery in their fourteen and seven gun batteries, and seem to have prepared to act on the defensive at their forts—We keep a moderate fire upon them, and often put their guards in disorder. Every one is amazed that the enemy do not return it, for surely they can have no hope of taking this place by famine, since we have received supplies from *Britain*; or; should they still entertain that idea, a few ships of the line stationed here may keep the communication between *Tangier* and the Garrison so open as utterly to defeat so indecisive a project.

I am, &c.

LETTER VII.

Gibraltar.

DEAR BROTHER,

Feb. 3. **T**HE stores and provisions being almost landed, the fleet are preparing for sea, and it is confidently reported, that none of the ships of the line will be left here to guard the Bay; we may therefore conclude, that in a short time we shall experience a situation equally as distressing as that from which we have lately been relieved; for while the enemy commands a superior force in the bay, the

the supplies which would otherwise be forwarded from *Tangier* and *Tetuan*, will be cut off: A few days will leave our situation no mystery. 1780 Feb.

This day all the Spanish deserters embarked on board the men of war, on their passage to *England*. Sailed the *Childers* sloop, with dispatches.

Came in at *Landport*, two private men and a drummer, belonging to the enemy's Walloon Guards; they assert, that the Spanish General has not any orders to fire, but on the defensive, and that Admiral *Don Barcello* has received advice from *Madrid*, to renew the blockade as soon as the British fleet departs, at which time he is to be reinforced with two ships of the line and several frigates. 5th.

Came in a deserter from the Walloon guards. 10th.

This afternoon, wind E. N. E. Admiral *Rodney* made signal to weigh. About twelve o'clock, the men of war, including the five Spanish ships, viz. *Phoenix*, *Diligente*, *Monarca*, *Princessa*, *Guiposegana*, and convoy, got under sail. Several families took this safe opportunity of flying from fatigue and danger, and embarked on board the fleet. The battery at *Cabritta*, fired a gun to alarm the coast, which was returned at *Ceuta*, as our shipping stood towards that place in order to clear the land; in the evening they were all out of sight, but the enemy continued to fire alarm guns, and threw a great number of rockets from the watch towers. 13th.

The *Edgar*, under the command of Commodore *Eliott*, the *Panther* of 64 guns, the *Enterprise* prize

1780 prize and *Porcupine* frigates; *Gibraltar* and *Fort*
Feb. 14 *tune* sloops remain here. At *Algaziras* are at
anchor, one ship of 70 guns, one ditto 50, one
frigate, and a few xebecs. We are now able
to oppose our foes on the opposite side.

Yesterday Admiral *Langara*, and the other
officers of his fleet, were permitted to pass to
Spain on parole.

15th. Admiral *Barcello* this morning hauled out to
the left of the battery at *Algaziras*; he appears
to be very busy in getting up his top-masts
and yards; some of his galleys passed to the
westward. On the land side a few working
parties have again made their appearance.

27th. Nothing material has happened, for some
days. The *Spanish* horse and infantry, have
been performing their evolutions, twice every
day: it is computed their number, fit for ac-
tual service, is about 17 or 18,000. Last night
came in a small boat with lemons and oranges
from *Tangier*. The enemy's gun-boats chased
her under *Europa*, which occasioned a few shot
to be discharged from that post.

This day arrived at *Algaziras*, from the
westward, four *Spanish* line of battle ships,
two frigates, and one xebec.

28th. Wind W.. Arrived at *Algaziras*, a *Spanish*
frigate and a xebec from the westward: the
frigate saluted Admiral *Barcello*, but no return
was made. It appears as if they intended to
renew the blockade.

Mar. 4. This morning alarm signals were made at
Ceuta, of the appearance of an enemy to the
eastward. Wind N. N. E. Admiral *Barcello*
immediately loosed his fore-top-sails, as a sig-
nal to weigh. A frigate, xebec, and two gal-
lies,

lies, made ready, and stretched across for *Ceu-* 1780.
ta: soon after he followed, but had not quite Mar.
 cleared *Europa*, when the cruizers discovered
 the supposed prey to be a xebec. The wind
 having shifted to the S. E. this evening, the
 enemy have again anchored at their look-out
 on the opposite side. Several gallies and other
 small cruizers, that stole away during the con-
 tinuance of our fleet, have ventured to re-
 turn.

This day our cartel, under a flag of truce, 12th.
 received from Spain 390 British prisoners of
 war. They report that *Spain* is determined
 on the conquest of this place in contempt of
 all impediments, and that a large body of
French troops are really embarked for the camp,
 to forward this determined object.

Last night a deserter came in from the Wal- 16th.
 loon guards. He gives an account that the
 enemy suffered considerably from our fire yes-
 terday. One shell killed and wounded 25
 persons.

The Spanish Squadron this morning were 19th.
 decorated with colours of various sorts. In
 the afternoon their troops in camp were ar-
 ranged in three lines; the battery at *Fort Ne-*
gro made a triple salvo of 12 guns each time,
 which was answered as often by a running
 fire from the army. The batteries and ship-
 ping at *Algaziras* performed the same.

A neutral vessel was brought in by the Spa-
 nish cruizers for examination, Admiral *Barcello*
 being determined not to let a ship pass unno-
 ticed. For these three days we have not fired
 much, being busily employed in strengthening
 our

1780. our works, particularly those adjoining the Mar. isthmus, as the enemy work busily on that place at the erection of new approaches.

25th. Wind W. This day arrived several polacres and fettees at the *Orange Grove*.—We only conjecture they are laden with stores for the camp.

29th. At day-break this morning a signal-gun was fired from a xebec near the point; several armed cruizers got under sail, and formed a line from the point to *Ape's Hill*, where, after firing a shot, they captured a fettee, and brought her in, with her colours reversed. It is imagined she had cattle on board for the garrison, which is very much wanted, as very little fresh meat can be purchased. Our provision is chiefly salt beef and pork, and that we use sparingly, not knowing when we may receive another supply. Vegetables are scarce and dear, and of the worst sort in quality. Our barren rock yields but little; but as necessity generally adopts a remedy, many have begun to convert the solid parts of the rock into kitchen gardens, which some have effected by raising walls one height above another, and filling the inclosed with earth. It will appear a scene of enchantment to Admiral *Barcello*, when he beholds the face of the dry and barren Rock in a state of vegetation.

I am,

Dear Brother,

Yours, &c.

LETTER

LETTER VIII.

Gibraltar.

DEAR BROTHER,

THE enemy are still forwarding their approaches, and on our part, I can affirm there is no deficiency. The *Spaniards* must sustain considerable losses in their operations, as we seldom let them rest. Our fire, of late, does not prevent them working. Judge what must be their sufferings, when we are hourly pouring upon them an incessant discharge of every kind of shot and shells. 1780 Ap. 7.

The sufferings of the British troops at present, is from heavy duty, and the scarcity of provision. When the enemy have compleated their approaches, I imagine they will retaliate, but we are prepared to withstand their efforts.

Last night a boat was dispatched to *Barbary*, to learn if there were a packet, or any intelligence from Britain.

This morning, about three o'clock, the boat that was sent to *Barbary*, arrived safe; she brought a packet to the General, but not any intelligence has transpired. The *Patron of the boat has refused to answer any particular questions. 10th.

Last night, wind W. arrived the *Hyena* frigate, in thirteen days from *England*. She exchanged several shot in the Gut with the enemy's xebecs. Admiral *Barcello*, this morning, (wind having shifted) detached a frigate to the 14th.

* The Master, called Patron by the Spaniards.

1780 the W. where she keeps tacking and hovering in the Gut.

20th. Wind E. This morning, about nine o'clock, the *Edgar* and *Hyena*, got under weigh suddenly, and stood to the westward; the *Spanish* towers immediately spread the alarm, and Admiral *Barcello*, with three ships of the line hove out, but to his no small mortification, could not weather *Cabritta*, until our shipping were out of sight, as he was obliged to make several tacks in the Bay, owing to the stiff breeze.

This day *Don Barcello* and his squadron, returned to their former anchorage, baffled and disappointed by the escape of our frigates.

27th. Last night came in a schooner from *Malaga*, with lemons and oranges: the crew are natives of *Spain*, but came in here, knowing it to be a good market.

28th. Some time in the course of the night (which was thick and hazy) the schooner slipped out unperceived by the enemy.

30th. Came in a boat from *Tetuan*, with twelve dozen of fowl: they had several cocks on board, which they were forced to kill, fearing their crowing might alarm the *Spanish* cruizers that cover the Bay.

May 1 Last night, about ten o'clock, a fire broke out in the enemy's camp, which raged with great violence for upwards of two hours.

3d. Wind E. This day arrived a convoy from the eastward at *Algaziras* and *Orange Grove*. It has been observed that many carts are employed in carrying shot and shells from the Pier to the *Artillery Park*, where they are scaling their cannon; their troops appear very busy, and their motions indicate a speedy attack. The

The inhabitants are beginning to erect sheds 1780
at the southward near *Mount-Pleasant*, as a re- May.
treat whenever the enemy open upon us, which
many are of opinion will be soon. The *Spanish*
troops are exercised every day, and frequently
fire in their camp.

Came in a boat from *Tangier*, with lemons, 4th.
fowl, leather, and *Barbary* pumps. The great
demand in this place for shoes, renders leather
an article of great value.

This afternoon the *Spanish* army were ar- 6th.
ranged in two divisions, and about four o'clock
began a sham fight, similar to an attack upon
the garrison. One division took post on the
rising ground under the *Queen's Chair* (sup-
posed to be the British) while the other divi-
sion, in the valley on the common, endea-
voured to dislodge them, and take possession
of their intrenchments: the fire was well sup-
ported on both sides for three hours, when the
British forces were entirely routed;—they
had several field pieces, and some cannon with
them. I assure you, that the fight afforded
great entertainment, and the army displayed
some merit in their performance: they have
been practising several days. It is evident they
mean to familiarize their troops to the nature
of an attack, so that they may be more expert
when they make a regular assault.

This day a cartel from *Spain*, brought over 7th.
between forty and fifty British prisoners of
war: they confidently assert, that fourteen sail
of the line, several frigates, and a number of
transports with troops, were hourly expected
to sail from *Cadiz*, but their destination was a
matter of uncertainty.

Laft

1780 Last night, four deserters endeavoured to
 May 8. reach the garrison, only one escaped safe; three were either taken or shot by the *Spanish* horse patrols:—he is one of the Walloons, and says, that the *Spanish* General has received advice from *Madrid*, to fire whenever he thinks proper; two large mortars are mounted in their lines, with an incredible number of cannon. From this intelligence, we may conclude that a bombardment will shortly take place.

This day a soldier was executed in the garrison for theft. He died with great contrition and penitence, seemingly sensible of his situation and wickedness.

9th. This day the *Spaniards* executed two men; we suppose them to be those whom they took on the night of the 7th instant.

11th. This day came in a deserter from *Spain*: he is the first native who has deserted to us. He says that the duty in the *Spanish* camp is incessant and fatiguing, and that cannon and mortars are mounted for the purpose of opening a fire upon us immediately.

12th. Last night came in a boat from *Tangier*, with fowls, pigeons, and leather. The enemy chased her under the guns.

15th. This day a *Swedish* ship having approached *Europa*, we fired a shot, and obliged her to come in; but to our great disappointment, found her cargo to consist of salt only.

This morning the *Swedish* sailed from hence to the west, but the *Spanish* cruizers afterwards took her into *Algaziras* for examination.

A *Spanish* xebec arrived at *Algaziras* from the eastward, towing two large gun boats.

This

This morning two boats arrived from *Tangier*, with fowls and lemons: they bring advice, that the *Fly* packet-boat was, on the night of the 17th inst. cut out of the Port by the *Spaniards*. It appears from this circumstance, that the *Moors* are inclined to favour the *Spanish* cause, or otherwise they would not have suffered an act of this nature to be committed under the walls of their town.

Arrived this day from the West, a schooner laden with leather, butter and oil. Nothing extraordinary in the enemy's camp. Our garrison are beginning to be very sickly; the small pox rages with great violence, and carries off 18 or 20 per week, but mostly children. The enemy are very busy at *Algaziras*; a great many boats are every day employed from the *Orange Grove* to that place, but we cannot observe any thing particular they are doing. We suppose they are conveying ordnance stores for the siege.

I am your's, &c.

LETTER IX.

Gibraltar.

DEAR BROTHER,

THE cannonade is continued on the enemy:—they are constantly bringing down stores and ammunition to their lines, and make great progress in their approaches. 'Tis somewhat strange, notwithstanding the slaughter

1780 ter our shot and shells occasions among them,
June. that they are not disposed to retaliate.

Wind W. arrived a fettee from *Tangier* with 11 bullocks, 13 sheep, 24 dozen fowls, and a quantity of leather, eggs, and lemons. She got in unobserved by the enemy; the wind being fresh, forced the *Spanish* cruizers into *Algaziras*.

4th. Came in two boats with a few fowl from *Tetuan*.

5th. Last night a soldier deserted from the *Mole-head* guard. He had not been long posted sentinel, when he left his firelock and clothes in the box, and took his passage (naked) in the water.

6th. Came in a boat with fifteen sheep from *Tangier*. The Patron relates, that an English brig arrived in that Port, in eighteen days from *Portsmouth*, laden with butter, porter, and flour, and that the *Spanish* cruizers were watching her closely.

7th. About one this morning, wind N. W. a ship was discovered standing for the *New Mole*; the *Enterprize* hailed her; when she answered, *A provision ship from England*; the frigate hailed again, and suspecting that she was not a friend, immediately hoisted the signal of an enemy's approach; soon after several more appeared keeping the same course. The *Enterprize* discharged a shot at the first, and the enemy finding they were discovered, took to their boats, and set them on fire, one after another, being nine in number. The garrison drums beat to arms, and the soldiery immediately repaired to their stations. A brisk fire from the batteries and

and shipping commenced on the *Spanish* boats, 1780 by which they must have suffered considerably. June 7. The terrified inhabitants kept weeping with the most bitter and inexpressible anguish, expecting every minute a bombardment from the land side.

The *British* seamen displayed great firmness and valour in repelling these destructive visitants. Every boat was instantly manned, and with daring resolution they steered to these flaming devourers grappling to their burning sides.—Amidst the most imminent danger and scorching heat, they towed them out of the direction of the *New Mole*, where twenty sail of shipping lay at anchor—three drove to the eastward.

Admiral *Barcello*, with his squadron, was under sail, flattering himself, that if our shipping were not burnt, they would cut their cables and push to sea; but his stratagems were frustrated, and this morning he returned to his old station, to study more mischief.

Some time in the night came in a boat from *Tangier*, with fowls and leather. It was fortunate she was not fired at from the garrison, as she might reasonably have been suspected for a Spaniard.

This morning came in a privateer and a 8th. large settee from *Portugal*, with sheep, wine, oil, and lemons. This must be an additional mortification to *Don Barcello*, notwithstanding the vigilance of his numerous cruizers to distress us, that we are so seasonably supplied by our friends.

Arrived with a fine breeze at W. two boats 10th. from *Barbary*—they brought 48 sheep and a few

D

1780 few fowls. A gun was fired from one of the June. enemy's galleys, but too late to prevent their 11th. getting in.

Last night a man on duty, at the batteries on the hill, fell from a precipice of the Rock, and was dashed to pieces. It is supposed he intended to desert.

12th. Last night arrived a settee from *Tangier*, with 38 bullocks and 80 sheep; also a small boat with oil. These frequent supplies will enable the garrison to sustain their situation with the utmost spirit. Beef is sold for three rials, and mutton four rials per pound.

14th. The enemy's line of battle ships and frigates sailed from *Algaziras* to the East; Admiral *Barcello* has hoisted his flag on board a xebec—We cannot conjecture what is meant by this manœuvre.

15th. Last night sailed from the *New Mole*, a 20 gun ship for *England*, with dispatches. Wind N. E. Came in a small settee from the eastward with fruit.

18th. Arrived in the night from *Algaziras*, a boat with six deserters belonging to the naval and marine service of the enemy: they say that our opponents are heartily tired of their situation.

19th. Wind W. This day arrived at *Algaziras*, a *Spanish* frigate and three large xebecs, accompanied by a *Moorish* corsair.

20th. Came in a small boat, with a few sheep and fowls.

22d. Last night our batteries kept a hot and incessant fire upon the enemy's working parties; they laboured uncommonly hard at their approaches, as we heard their hammers during the whole course of the night. We did not observe

observe any additional work this morning, so 1780
that we conclude they were nailing down plat- June.
forms in their batteries. We continue our
working parties on the fortifications, which
are in extreme good condition to annoy them.

Wind E. Came in a *Tartan* from *Minorca*, 23d.
with leather, wine, and charcoal. A season-
able supply—shoes being much wanted (which
are sold at 20 and 22 rials per pair) charcoal is
also a great acquisition, as firing is become a
very scarce article; the wrecks of the fireships
destroyed on the 7th instant, being almost ex-
hausted, we shall find ourselves greatly ne-
cessitated in a short time for a sufficiency for
cooking. A *Portuguese* fisherman, who had
pulled a rib from one of the wrecks, on the
morning of their destruction, and towed it to
shore with his boat, received nine dollars for
the small purchase. The wine also is very ac-
ceptable.

This forenoon a Spanish 70 gun ship from 24th.
the East, having a British ensign on her fore-
top-mast-head, and a yellow flag over it, as a
signal of defiance, stretched in close towards
Rosia Bay, accompanied with two frigates and
a xebec, and opened their fire upon the Pan-
ther and Enterprize: our shipping and bat-
teries gave them a well directed return, the
70 gun ship received several shot, the xebec
had one of her sails damaged, and her boom
carried away; three of the enemy's shot came
on shore; one fell at *Europa*, one at the *Devil's*
Bowling Green, and one at the *New Mole*.—
Fifteen men were wounded on board the En-
terprize frigate, by some powder taking fire
during the action, nine were sent to the Naval

D 2

Hospital,

1780 Hospital, the others remained in the ship, not June being in a dangerous way.

27th. This morning at two o'clock, (it being a dead calm) the enemy began to fire upon the garrison, and the shipping in *Assa Bay*. — It is conjectured they were gun-boats or floating-batteries, for it being very dark, it was impossible to perceive their form. Several shot, (26lb. weight) came on shore at *South-barracks*, but happily did no damage. The shipping and garrison kept up a brisk fire, the picquets of the several regiments were under arms, and the women and children roused, on hearing a general discharge of cannon. It is not improbable that this is a stratagem of Admiral *Barcello's*, to harass and fatigue us with repeated firings and alarms from the Bay, and then give the decisive stroke; but they have Britons to encounter. The more we feel our enemy, the more ardent are our desires to engage them.

29th. Wind W. Arrived a boat, with sundry small articles, from *Tangier*.

30th. This day, our Town-Major (Captain *Burke*, 58th Regiment,) went out at *Bay-side* and received a * parley from the enemy. Not the least intelligence has transpired. The situation of the enemy's works and approaches, indicate a bombardment, and some imagine that articles of capitulation have been sent in for negotiation.

The enemy have for several days been carrying

* An Officer advancing with a drummer beating, for the purpose of conveying or receiving conditions, during which time the firing on each side ceases.

ing stores in covered waggons to their lines: 1780 they keep strengthening and advancing their June. approaches; their horse and infantry are exercising daily, and a great many men employed in and about their Artillery Park,—we can plainly perceive they have a great quantity of shot and shells piled there. With fervent wishes for your health and welfare, I remain,

Dear Brother,

Affectionately yours, &c.

LETTER X.

Gibraltar.

DEAR BROTHER,

OUR cartel, under a flag of truce, proceed- July 2. ed half way over the Bay this forenoon, and received from the *Spanish* cartel 100 prisoners of war; taken in the *Admiral Keppel* privateer. They bring information that 42 sail of *French* and *Spanish* line of battle ships, and ten bomb-ketches, have actually sailed from *Cadiz* for this place, and that 30,000 men are within a short march of the camp of *St. Roque*. This makes it evident that Spain is determined if possible, to take Gibraltar, so that we may shortly expect warm work. Some consultations have been held, but the result is not made public.

Last night, wind E. N. E. the *Panther*, Capt. 3d. *Harvey*, got under way with a snoring breeze;

D 3

some.

1780 some affirm she is gone to *Tangier*, for the July. preservation of the ship, others, that she has sailed for *England*. The report made by the prisoners received from Spain yesterday occasioned her departure. Our force is not very formidable, the *Enterprize* and *Porcupine* frigates, *St. Firmin* sloop, the *Gibraltar* and *Fortune* cutters, only remaining on the station.

An armed boat having come near our ships this forenoon, was fired at several times to make her sheer off. It is imagined that *Don Barcello* came over in her, to see what had become of the *Panther*.

5th. This forenoon, the Spaniards were very busy in camp; several parties practising their mortars. We kept up a very hot fire last night upon their parties, particularly with small shells, which are very destructive.

8th. Last night, wind E. four old India ships sailed on their passage to *England*. They came with the fleet under the command of Admiral *Rodney*. Our shipping intend (as the nights are now dark) to slip out occasionally. This afternoon came in a deserter from the Walloon Guards: He swam from a battery on this side *Port Negro*—the enemy fired two shots at him. He says, the Spaniards are meditating a vigorous storm against this place, and that on 7th of June, when the fireships were sent in, he was an assistant gunner at the lines, where every thing was in readiness to bombard the town, in case any of those ships had dropped into the *New Mole*, that the matches were lighted, and only waited for the word "*Fire*."

Wind

Wind W. came in a packet-boat from *Faro*, 1780.
 —She lay eight days in the creeks of the *Bar-* July
bary shore, before she could find an opportu- 10th.
 nity of getting in.—The *Portuguese* Captain
 says, it was currently reported, that the *British*
 fleet had defeated the *French*, on their passage
 to join the *Spaniards* at *Cadiz*. How far this is
 true, time will inform us..

The prisoners of war brought in here the-
 2d instant, assert, that several more fireships
 are preparing at *Algaziras* and the rivers.
 The naval Commander on this intelligence, re-
 moved all vessels from *New Mole* into the Bay.

Wind W. Arrived a boat from *Tangier*, 11th.
 with fowls. From the account she brings, we
 may expect no further intercourse with *Bar-*
bary: The Patron says, two of our garrison
 boats, were chased on shore by the *Spaniards*,
 and captured in that port. The Emperor of
Morocco, still winks at the hostilities committed
 by them, and even countenances their depreda-
 tions, by permitting the *Spanish* boats to
 seize our vessels coming into *Tangier*; several
 have been taken under the walls of that place.

Several *Spanish* frigates and xebecs keep
 cruising in the Gut, and to the eastward of
 the Rock. *Barcello* manifests great alertness.

Between one and two o'clock this morn- 17th.
 ing, the *Spanish* gun-boats began an attack
 upon our shipping: The fire was returned
 by us, but it is imagined without any effect,
 they being imperceptible to the eye, the flash
 of their guns being the only object we had to
 direct us: Several of the enemy's shot came
 on shore, and a gun was dismounted on board
 the *Enterprize* frigate.

GARRISON

1780.
July

GARRISON ORDERS.

Whenever there is any firing from the garrison or the enemy, or any appearance of the enemy's ships, row boats, or armed vessels approaching, the Commissioned Officers commanding guards, are to report to the Governor what they observe, and mention whether all is well on the guard.

19th. About two this morning, little wind, the enemy's gun-boats again attacked the shipping and garrison, without doing any particular damage, except rousing the wearied soldiery, and timid inhabitants from their nightly slumbers.

This day a soldier deserted from *Upper Forbes's*, where he was at work. He got down, by a scaling ladder, and was not discovered until he was seen running across the sands, too late to fire at him with any effect. It is not improbable but we shall be more frequently troubled with the gun-boats, as there is not the least doubt but he will inform the enemy how far their shot reaches.

23d. Wind W. Arrived a *Spanish* ship of the line at *Algaziras*—and also came in here a small boat from *Faro*, with lemons and onions.

24th. This day our cartel received from *Spain* five British prisoners of war, who were sick when the last cartel arrived.

31st. Wind E. Last night four empty transports failed from hence on their passage to *England*: It is imagined the enemy did not perceive them.

them. About noon a vessel arrived from *Mi-* 1780
norca, with wine, leather, and onions; she July.
 narrowly escaped being taken behind the
 Rock—A half galley that came out to intercept
 her, was fired at by our batteries and shipping,
 which made her sheer off.

Your's, &c.

L E T T E R X I.

Gibraltar.

DEAR BROTHER,

WIND West. This morning between ten Aug. 3
 and eleven o'clock, several guns were
 distinctly heard in the Gut; soon after, we
 discovered the *Spanish* cruizers chasing a small
 settee, which stood for the Bay, but before she
 could get under the cover of our guns, was
 obliged to strike. It is asserted that she was
 detached from *Faro* with the mail, the loss of
 which will be regretted by those persons who
 have been long without hearing from their
 friends.

Several vessels arrived from the westward at 5th.
Algaziras, supposed to be laden with ordnance
 and military stores.

We have kept almost a constant fire upon 12th.
 the enemy this week past, but cannot make
 them desist from their labours, which they di-
 ligently attend to.

Wind

1780 . Wind W. Early this morning, the *Spanish*
 Aug. galleys and gun-boats sailed from *Algaziras*—a
 small brig appeared standing for this place ; the
 enemy began a fire upon her, both of round
 and grape shot, which she run through, till she
 got nearly within the cover of the guns at
Europa, when it fell a dead calm, and to our
 great mortification, she was boarded and tow-
 ed off by the enemy, nor could we afford her
 any assistance. This vessel is known to be the
Dolphin, with supplies from *Lisbon*.

16th. This day our cartel received the crews of
 four vessels taken on their passage hither, viz.
Dolphin, Captain *Grant*, from *Lisbon* ; *Sally* and
Rachael, Captain *Hays*, from *London* ; *Polly*,
 Captain *Coffin*, from ditto ; and *Betsy*, Captain
Wilson, from ditto. The three latter were taken
 in and about *Tangier-Bay*, within musquet shot
 of the town.

26th. Last night the enemy threw up a great quan-
 tity of sand upon their works, to prevent the
 penetration of our shot ; their approaches are
 forwarded with an astonishing assiduity ; we
 can plainly perceive that they have received a
 reinforcement of troops. From the progress
 of their operations, it is imagined, by those
 experienced in war, that a short period will
 open the grand and long expected display,
 wherein Britons are to become resolute per-
 formers. If intrepidity can withstand such a
 numerous band of besiegers, we have every
 hope of being victorious.

Our Governor has made great additions
 to our fortifications ;—several new batteries
 have been erected upon the hill, and others
 planned out. Should the enemy not open
 till

till these are compleated, we shall sing to the 1780
Dons, the old song of Defiance, and laugh at
 their approaches.

I am,

Dear Brother,

Sincerely your's.

LETTER XII.

Gibraltar.

DEAR BROTHER,

THIS day several large *Spanish* fettees ar- Sept. 3
 rived from the eastward, with timber
 and fascines, they anchored off the pier at the
Orange Grove. It is conjectured they have
 other works in contemplation. Part of their
 cargo was landed this afternoon.

Last night two foldiers deserted from *Mid-* 9th.
dle-hill Guard; they got down the back of the
 Rock, which is a dreadful precipice, and suf-
 ficient to deter the most hardened.

The enemy keeps our port blockaded much
 closer than ever; about ten of their armed
 cruisers are constantly under *Cabritta*, some at
Tarifa, about eight near *Tangier*, three or
 four at *Tetuan*, some at *Cueta*, and several at
 the Gut's mouth, so that it is almost impossi-
 ble for any vessel to escape: The gun-boats
 and gallies form a chain every night from *Ca-*
britta to *Europa Point*, and in the morning re-
 turn to their anchorage.

On

1780 On the land side the enemy are quiet, very
 Sept. few working parties employed, their works
 appear to be complete. We have not received
 an ox from *Barbary* since June 12th, and every
 species of provision is now at a most extra-
 vagant rate. The small quantity of poultry
 in the garrison, sells high; a turkey cock,
 was sold a few days ago for three guineas and
 a half; a goose one pound ten shillings; ducks
 a guinea a couple; a hen twelve shillings; eggs
 eight pence each; powder sugar two shillings
 the pound; soap one shilling and four-pence
 ditto, charcoal half-a-guinea for 25 lb weight,
 oil two shillings the pint; pork two shillings
 and six-pence the pound; fish at the rate of
 eighteen-pence ditto; fire-wood five shillings
 and six-pence per hundred weight; tallow
 candles two shillings and six-pence per pound;
 onions eight-pence ditto; and all other articles
 proportionally dear, and scarcely to be pur-
 chased.

From this sketch you may form an idea of
 our present situation, and the consequences
 that are to follow, if some supplies do not ar-
 rive from England.—Arrived a xebec from
 the westward at *Algaziras*.

14th. Arrived last night, a small settee from *Mi-
 norca* with wine, oil, sugar, honey, onions, tur-
 keys, and other necessaries, which are sold at
 enormous prices; many things almost for their
 weight in silver.

16th. This day a company of marksmen were
 formed out of the several regiments; they
 are to practice twice a day, under the com-
 mand of Lieutenant *Burleigh*, of the 39th re-
 giment.

Our

Our cartel this day received a Midshipman 1780
 from *Spain*, a prisoner of war. It is confi- Sept.
 dently asserted, that the combined fleet have 23d.
 taken off the *Madeiras*, fifty or sixty sail of
 our outward-bound *West-Indiamen*, and some
East-India ships, many of them already arrived
 at *Cadiz*; if the account is true, the loss will
 be sensibly felt by *Britain*—The enemy are bu-
 sily employed in raising the *merlons of all
 their batteries at the lines, with fascines and
 sand bags, and work openly upon their †glacis.
 We do not fire upon them now, as we are for-
 warding some additional fortifications, and
 probably they might return the fire as they
 are prepared for the attack, which would
 greatly annoy us in our labours.

Last night, wind E. sailed the *Sally* and *Betsy*, 25th.
 and another ship for *England*; we think they
 are both discovered, as the enemy threw seve-
 ral rockets from their watch-towers.

Last night sailed the ships *Handelier* and 26th.
Nancy, with several women and children on
 board, bound for *England*. A cruizer under
 the *Barbary* shore, fired an alarm gun, and
 this morning we discovered two xebecs had
 pushed to the westward.

[Biscuit will be delivered to the regiments in lieu 27th.
 of soft bread, from Monday next, the 2d of Octo-
 ber, until further orders.]

This afternoon a reinforcement of three 28th.
 large *Spanish* xebecs from the eastward, arrived
 at *Algaziras*. Came in a deserter from the
 Walloon

* A part of fortification between two port-holes.

† A sloping bank.

1780. Sept. Walloon guards; he was dressed like a farmer, says that he was a serjeant in the *Spanish* service: he is a *German*, speaks *English* and *French* pretty well; seems to be an intelligent man. The manner of his coming to the garrison occasions a suspicion of his being a spy; the governor has ordered him to be stationed at *Windmill-hill*, and not to have the privilege of walking the streets, as the other deserters have.

29th. This day an additional *Spanish* frigate came to an anchor at *Algaziras* from the West.

30th. Wind W. The enemy this day brought into *Algaziras* the ship *Sally* and *Betsy*, with her ensign reversed. She sailed from here the 25th instant. It is not improbable but the other three ships have shared the same fate.

Oct. 1. The *Spaniards*, availing themselves of the darkness of the night, erected a breast-work on the isthmus, between *Landport Gardens* and the *Round Tower*, about 60 feet in length, being within 800 yards of our lines; and about three o'clock this morning they set fire to our huts in the *Gardens*, and came undiscovered as far as *Bay-side* and *Lower-Forbes's* Guard-houses, where they hung several bundles of combustibles on the palisades to burn them down, together with machines, constructed with twelve tubes, charged with a ball cartridge; to each of which a fuze led, intended thereby to kill the guards in endeavouring to free them from the gates; the fuze did not burn to the powder, and the machines were brought in to our laboratory. The sentinels posted there did not observe them, owing to the darkness of the night, and the roaring of the
the

the sea and wind; but as soon as the flames 1780
 appeared, the guards gave them a smart fire Oct. 1,
 of musquetry, which obliged them to retreat.
 Previous to the affair, the enemy threw a
 rocket at *Algaziras*, which was answered at
 their lines, when, in an instant, the blaze
 spread over every part of the Gardens. They
 had lain a train from our gates to the several
 huts in the Gardens, which soon consumed
 them: fortunately no material damage was
 done to our gates, nor any person hurt on our
 side.

This day the enemy brought in, with their 2d.
 ensigns reversed, the *Handelier* and *Nancy*, that
 sailed the 26th of September. Count *D'Es-*
taing (we suppose) with several general officers
 from the camp, came down to the lines this
 forenoon. He was saluted at *Fort-Negro* with
 15 guns on his return to the camp, from
 whence he proceeded, accompanied with a
 great many boats, to *Algaziras*, where the
 shipping saluted him. The deserter who came
 in on the 29th last month reports, that the
 Count was expected in the *Spanish* camp when
 he left it, and added, that several *French* regi-
 ments were preparing to reinforce the *Spanish*
 army next spring, though they flattered them-
 selves at *St. Roque*, that the garrison would be
 in their hands much sooner.

Last night we fired at the enemy's breast- 3d.
 work, an incredible number of small shells,
 and several carcasses, but we do not perceive
 any particular damage done.

GARRISON

1780
Oct. 3.

GARRISON ORDERS.

If the enemy approach towards any of the posts, and at all times where there is any firing, or any thing extraordinary happens in the night, reports are immediately to be sent to the Governor, and the Field Officer of the day, and notice given to the adjacent posts. In case of a sudden attack, upon any of the posts, the Officer commanding there, will make such a disposition for the defence of his post, as the nature of the attack may seem to him to require.

4th. About eleven o'clock last night, there was a great deal of firing at the entrance of the Bay; and this morning we perceived the enemy in possession of a cutter, with a *Spanish* ensign above the *English*.

6th. Our cartel went out this day for prisoners of war, but they only received the women, children, and invalids—the seamen were detained. What the *Spaniards* mean by this, is not known: if they mean to starve us into a surrender, they should send every man they take prisoner; for the more we have to maintain, the sooner will our provisions be consumed.

7th. This day the Town-Major went out on the isthmus with a parley; the sentinel at the advanced work, at first opposed his passing, but after some deliberation, accompanied him as far as the *Round Tower*, where an officer came to receive the letter, but looked very fullen, not being pleased with having their works examined. It seems they have good covering for their men there.

Last

Last night the enemy raised the merlons of 1780 their batteries at the lines, about two feet Oct. higher.

GARRISON ORDERS.

*The men to receive to-morrow, two pound of salt 8th. fish, one ditto of pork, and half a pound of beef.**

Wind E. This morning early, a small settee 11th. arrived with supplies from *Minorca*, and the Patron having intimated that two others were standing for the Rock, our boats went out with an intention to assist them, but no such vessels appeared; however a *Danish* dogger, in company with a *Dutch* convoy, having come pretty near *Europa Advance*, which she could not see on account of a thick fog; our boats boarded and brought her in. She proves to be from *Malaga*, bound to *Copenhagen*, laden with lemons, oranges, raisins, &c. which articles being deemed very wholesome for the troops, especially the sick, the Governor ordered her cargo to be landed. An attempt was also made by our boats upon a *Dutch* ship, but on account of the fire from the frigate of the convoy, was compelled to desist.

Last night a soldier attempting to desert to 12th. the enemy, from *Middle-hill* Guard, fell from the heights, and was dashed to pieces at the foot of the Rock. One would imagine it to be madness in a person to endeavour to escape that way, as the precipices of the Rock are so steep, that the very idea to a rational man, would deter him from such a proceeding.

E

Two

* A great part of which is quite rotten, particularly the salt fish.

- 1780 Two of the enemy's gun-boats have for these
 Oct. several mornings appeared off the *Old Mole-*
 16th. *Head* (at long-gun-shot distance) and row
 gently along in a line opposite the *King's-*
Bastion, as if they were sounding: they pre-
 vent our fishing boats from going to their
 usual posts. Yesterday and this day, a large
 body of the enemy were busily employed in
 levelling a piece of ground on the east side of
 the first guard-house near *Fort Phillippe*. Our
 engineers are of opinion they are going to
 erect a battery there.
- 18th. The enemy's gun-boats, yesterday and this
 day, fired on our fishing-boats, and obliged
 them to come in. It is evident their intention
 is to prevent the supply of fish, as well as meat.
 The ordnance mounted in these boats, dis-
 charge shot 26lb. weight, and are of great
 annoyance. They are able to attack a ship of
 force in a calm.
- 19th. Wind E. Came in a small vessel from *Mabon*,
 with variety of articles. The gun-boats fired
 several shot at the *St. Fermin* sloop, which she
 returned, but the enemy did not do any da-
 mage to her or the garrison.

We have these several nights, at intervals,
 discharged *light balls on the isthmus, to disco-
 ver if the enemy's parties were working, which
 the *Spanish* soldiers often extinguish by cover-
 ing them with sand.

GARRISON

* Some cast in lead, and some made of strong paper,
 filled with a composition, which while it burns, gives a
 sufficient light to observe the enemy's motions.

GARRISON ORDERS.

1780

*Issues of provision for the next month, commencing Oct 19
23d of October, and ending 19th Nov. 1780.*

MEN PER WEEK.

*Beef, one pound ; pork, one ditto ; pease, one pint ;
oatmeal, one ditto ; butter, two ounces and half ;
* wheat, one pint and half ; flour 3-4ths of a pound ;
raisins, half a pound ; kidney beans, one pint ; vi-
negar, quarter of a pint, in lieu of three pints of
pease, and seven ounces butter.*

Wind S. E. This morning arrived and an- 21st.
chored under *Europa Advance*, not being able
to get round the Point, a small boat with wine
and other necessaries from *Algiers*. The *Spa-
nish* General sent in a parley this forenoon,
wherein it is signified that he will not any
longer communicate by land, and appointing
Flags of Truce to meet in the Bay, whenever
necessary.

This morning the weather being more calm, 22d.
our boats brought round the settee that an-
chored under the *Advance* yesterday. About
four this afternoon, three of the enemy's gun-
boats saluted the *Enterprize*, with their 26
pounders, which she returned :—the battery
at the *Mole* and *South Bastion* fired several
E 2 rounds

* The provision is getting very unfit for use, and the
wheat delivered to the troops is of no service, as the in-
side is destroyed by insects, and only the integument re-
maining.

1780 rounds at them, which made them take a hasty
Oct. farewell. Several of their shot came on shore.

27th. This morning we perceived that the enemy had extended their advance work (now termed the *Tower Battery*) several yards. We fired many shells, but without success, as most of them fell wide of the work; the *Spanish* soldiers encouraged by this, came out and exhibited tokens of defiance, but a round of well-directed grape shot from *Willis's*, soon made them forget their pastime. They are still employed on the work adjacent to *St. Phillippe*, and have begun to make a battery at *Cabritta Point*, either to protect their cruisers which anchor there, or to annoy our shipping passing by.

31st. We continue to keep up a fire upon the enemy on the isthmus, which has greatly prevented their carrying on their works; they have not made any addition since the 26th. Last night two soldiers that were sentinels at *Upper Forbes's*, got down by means of a rope, and deserted. The intelligence they may convey to the enemy, will be far from agreeable to their wishes: to hear that the *British* troops are in high spirits; that our batteries are in excellent order, and well furnished with artillery, will have a greater tendency to discouragement than martial animation.

The difficulties still to be encountered, and the impending danger which hang over our heads, seem to make no other impression on the soldiery, than to stimulate them to laborious exertions, and to make them look forward to that fame and glory which is to be acquired. *I remain yours, &c.*

LETTER

LETTER XIII.

Gibraltar.

DEAR BROTHER,

OUR situation still remains the same; the 1780
 enemy working, and we firing: Admiral Nov. 1
Barcello, with an unexampled strictness, con-
 tinues to guard the entrance of the Bay; even
 neutrals are not allowed to pass without exa-
 mination. A snow who kept company with
 a *French* convoy which passed to the eastward,
 and made a sudden push for *Europa*, was taken
 to the southward of the Point, and carried
 into *Ceuta*. This day we fired several well-
 directed shells into the *Tower Battery*, where
 we heard men at work.

Last night two soldiers deserted from the 2d.
 garrison; they got down by a rope at *Zoca*
 battery, stripped, and took to the water. The
 enemy worked very hard till near twelve
 o'clock, when they were forced to leave off on
 account of our fire.

GARRISON ORDERS.

*The regiments to be served with soft bread on
 Monday next.*

Last night, between seven and eight o'clock, 8th.
 the enemy's cruizers fired at a vessel standing
 for the Bay, with the wind at west; the fire
 was returned by her, and soon after we heard
 an explosion of powder, so that we conclude,
 either the vessel or a *Spanish* cruiser blew up.

1780 Nov. The enemy labour much at their advanced works, and notwithstanding these moon-light nights, and our frequent fire, they have extended their approaches towards the western shore. One of the bodies of the two soldiers that deserted the 2d instant, was found floating under the line-wall; another corpse was seen taken up on the strand, near Fort St. *Phillippe*.

10th. Last night arrived a settee, with wine and sundry articles from *Faro*. The Governor does not permit any of the people that come to the garrison, either from East or West, to land, until the Product-master has given them instructions with respect to the intelligence they may bring.

11th. We kept up a heavy cannonade from all the batteries that could bear upon the isthmus and lines, till after midnight. It is reported that several carts and working-parties were advancing, but it would be an impossibility for the enemy to execute any business under so brisk a fire.

12th. Wind N. W. This morning early, we discovered a small sail under the *Barbary* shore—three of the enemy's gun-boats set out from *Cabritta Point*, and as soon as they came near enough began to fire upon her, which she returned faintly, but kept standing her course; the boats afraid to board her, two xebecs stretched down upon her, and fired a broadside or two without doing any execution: the boats continued their fire until she got under the garrison guns, when our batteries at *Europa* and *Buena-Vista*, played so briskly, that they found it prudent to chase her no longer. She
proves

proves to be the *Young Sabine*, Captain M^cClorg, 1780. from *London*, in 18 days, with flour and other Nov. necessary articles, burthen 200 tons, and ten men. She was greatly damaged, and her sails almost torn to pieces, having received 29 shot which struck her in different parts during the action:—She had only one man slightly wounded.

This morning a *Minorca* settie arrived without any interruption, from among several *Spanish* cruizers, who took her to be one of their own vessels, till they saw her stand in.

Last night came in a settie from *Malaga* 14th. with fruit only—the *Spanish* cruizers convoyed her nearly under our guns, by means of a bribe, as the Patron relates, but we are rather suspicious of her being sent in by *Barcello*, to view our situation and learn the state of the garrison.

This morning a *Tartan*, a little to the eastward of the Rock, made a signal for assistance, but on account of the current, our boats could not weather round: she got almost under *Europa* guns, where she was boarded by a *Spanish* lugger's boat, but the crew made their escape in their own boat, and came in: she was from *Minorca* with supplies. The enemy are working day and night, and we keep firing as briskly.

Sale Prices of Provision, arrived here with Captain M^cClorg:

Flour, per barrel	-	*	£.3	12	0
Cork butter, per pound	-	0	2	9	
Gloucester cheese, ditto	-	0	2	4	
Hams, ditto	-	-	0	2	4
					Bacon,

1780	Bacon, ditto per pound	-	0	2	4
Nov.	Coals, per chaldron	-	14	14	0
14th.	Herrings, per barrel	-	4	0	0
	Candles, per pound	-	0	1	4
	Porter, per hoghead	-	6	10	0
	Rum, per gallon	-	0	18	0

This is a specimen of the prices as they are sold in lots by auction, but the buyers who retail them again make almost cent. per cent. You may therefore judge how those are situated who are obliged to purchase from the retailers.

About eight this morning, the *Malaga* settee received an order to leave the harbour, as the General entertains a doubt of her friendship.

15th. Last night, between eight and nine o'clock, several guns were briskly fired towards the entrance of the bay, and continued firing for the space of half an hour; and this morning we perceived the enemy in possession of a brig, which we suppose to be an *English* vessel from the westward.

17th. The enemy's gun-boats, yesterday evening, arranged themselves in the bay, when on a signal from *Fort-Negro*, they opened their fire towards the *Rosia*, the shipping off *Ragged-staff*, and *Saluting-Battery*, which was as freely returned by the garrison and men of war; most of their shot came on shore, but did no considerable damage. This attack greatly facilitated their operations on the isthmus; for while our attention was directed towards their gun-boats, the enemy by land were assiduously employed in strengthening their advanced works and *Tower-battery*, for at day-break this morning

morning, we perceived some thousands of sand 1780
bags piled on their approaches, which will af- Nov.
ford them the greatest cover from the fire of
our batteries on the height. This well-planned
operation gained them a considerable acqui-
sition, and will much forward their ensuing la-
bours.

Notwithstanding our heavy fire last night, 18th,
the enemy extended their approaches consider-
ably. They have begun forming a trench
towards the *Centre-stone Guard-House* on the
isthmus, to cover their men passing to and
from the *Tower-Battery*.

GARRISON ORDERS.

*Provisions from the 20th November to the 17th
December.*

MEN PER WEEK.

*Beef, one pound and half; Pork, one ditto;
Pease, one pint; Oatmeal, one ditto; Wheat, one
ditto; Flour, 3-4ths pound; Raisins, half ditto;
Rice, half pint; Butter, two ounces and half;
Vinegar, 1-4th pint.*

✧ *Seven pound Bread served weekly to officers
and men.**

The enemy, last night, again saluted us with 19th.
a liberal discharge of twenty-six pounders, di-
rected

* Though this allowance of Bread may be con-
sidered as sufficient, yet it being composed of ground
Pease, Oatmeal, and damaged Wheat, without being
sifted, a small quantity will weigh a pound, nor is it
satisfying to men who perform constant laborious
operations.

1780 rected at our shipping—The *New-Mole*, *South*,
 Nov. *King's*, and *Montague's* Bastions, and Saluting
 Battery, opened upon them with the greatest
 fury, and continued firing upwards of an hour
 —During the action, a gun unfortunately burst
 upon the *King's* Bastion, which killed the Bom-
 bardier of the detachment, and wounded ano-
 ther man—The head and thigh of the former
 was tore off—several pieces of the gun flew in-
 to the centre of the town, but happily did no
 mischief.

GARRISON ORDERS.

- 20th. *No lights to appear towards the Bay, in any
 house, barrack, guardhouse, or other building, af-
 ter seven o'clock at night.*
- 21st. The enemy's gun-boats continue their night-
 ly exhibitions—they did not injure us much
 by their fire last night. This day a soldier was
 missing, but not from any post on duty.
- 23d. The enemy's gun-boats, last night, again
 visited us with their usual generosity; but most
 of their shot fell short, so that the garrison
 and shipping made no return. The enemy,
 it is imagined, misjudged the distance, not
 seeing any lights on shore, agreeable to the
 orders of the 20th inst.
- 24th. The enemy continue their regular ap-
 proaches, several parties employed in bringing
 down to their lines, fascines, gabions, empty
 casks, &c. They have begun a passage to-
 wards the garrison, and made a sortie be-
 tween the seven and fourteen gun-batteries :
 —We annoy them as much as possible, with
 our small shells, during their nightly labours,
 for

for in the day time they do not carry on any 1780
visible work. In searching after a soldier, Nov.
who has been missing since the 21st inst. (sup-
posed to have deserted) the skeletons of two
men were found behind the Rock—A warning
to the inconsiderate from attempting to de-
sert.

The gun-boats attacked us again last night 25th.
—the *Enterprize* returned a few shot, but the
garrison was silent, except towards the isth-
mus, where a general discharge of ordnance
continued during the night. We set fire to
part of their works, but not effectually; the
enemy, however, extended their approaches
some yards. The work on the strand, near
Fort Phillippe, is now completely finished, being
a battery of 12 guns, constructed for the an-
noyance of our shipping, between *Ragged Staff*
and *New Mole*.—It appears to be about 12 or
14 feet high, and according to our opinion,
well executed.

The enemy's gun-boats generously gave us 26th.
a few rounds; they fired several of their shot
into the town, without doing any mischief.—
one fell into the Product-Master's quarters, be-
hind *King's* bastion. Our shipping, yester-
day, hauled into *New Mole*;—many are of
opinion they have some intimation of a speedy
attack, and others, that it is to prevent being
so much exposed to the enemy's gun-boats.
The *Spanish* approaches were much forwarded
last night; the centinels at the *Tower* battery
yesterday, fired several musquet shot at our
gardeners, outside of *Landport*: they have
plundered the gardens every night of late, but
now, in the most audacious manner, they
come

1780 come forward in the day time to gather vegetables—We occasionally fire wall-pieces, grape-shot, and small shells, but they seem so resolute, that all our efforts to make them desist cannot intimidate them. Several men have been seen to fall at the *Tower* battery, but we have not been fortunate enough to hit any of those that come forward—the walls of the wells in the gardens afford them excellent shelter.

29th. The *Danish* dogger that our boats brought in on the 11th of October sailed yesterday for *St. Ubes*:—the *Spanish* cruizers picked her up, and carried her into *Algaziras*. The enemy's approaches are forwarding with an incredible rapidity. General *Alvarez*, who commands in the camp, visits the lines and forts once or twice a week—we know him by his uniform and suite, on which occasion we never fire into the *Spanish* lines—this is being politically complimentary.

30th. This morning came in a *Spanish* polacre, with shoes, leather, silk, &c. on board—she was taken to the eastward by the *Anglicana* privateer which is expected hourly.

Yesterday the remaining *Spanish* frigates, that were at *Algaziras*, sailed to the west, so that the only ship of force which occupies that place is *Barcello's* xebec.—Two fireships have been brought out of *Guadarranque* river, and anchored at the *Orange Grove*; several more are getting ready in the rivers, and some at *Algaziras*. It is probable that the enemy have received an account of our fleet being on its passage, and are preparing for their destruction.

I remain Your's, &c.

LETTER

LETTER XIV.

Gibraltar.

DEAR BROTHER,

AMIDST impending dangers, heavy labours, perpetual alarms, constant watch-ings, lively hopes and expectations, I snatch a few moments to devote to your service. The period for the celebration of immortal VICTORY OR DEATH, hourly awaits us, and the glories and pomp of battle, in solemn steps approach: martial honours excite to valour, and the consideration of *Britain's* cause invigorates each bosom to repulse the combined arms of imperious *Gaul*, and proud *Iberia*, which glitter and adorn the *Spanish* plains.—

Although the god of war with aspect grim,
Exulting, strides around our batt'ring Rock,
And slaughter, with voracious jaws extended,
Waits with impatience for the long-wil'd prey.

This forenoon signals were made at the *Spanish* watch-towers of an enemy being to the eastward—a ship appeared standing for the rock, chased by two xebecs; two gun boats pushed out from *Algaziras*, and soon got near her—a fire immediately commenced between them, and continued till she came under *Europa* guns, without doing each other much damage. She proves to be the *Anglicana* letter of marque, of 26 guns, and 80 men, from *Smyrna* laden with silk. A small xebec was carried into *Algaziras*, with a *Spanish* ensign above

1780. above the *English*, many are of opinion that the
Dec. was a *Minorca* vessel bound for this place.

3d. Yesterday evening we had a violent storm of hail, rain, lightning and thunder—it did not reach the *Spanish* camp, or they must have suffered considerably. Arrived a *Spanish* frigate at *Algaziras*.

4th. Wind. E. Last night, with a stiff breeze, the *Anglicana* sailed from hence, on her passage to *England*.—The Governor forwarded an express by her, and embarked a few worn-out soldiers.

5th. The weather having proved rainy and boisterous these three days past, the enemy have not been able to execute any work on the isthmus, nor has any of their cruisers made their appearance in the Bay. The Governor has ordered the pavement of the streets to be dug up as far as *Southport*: one hundred and ten inhabitants, (besides the soldiery) are employed in this work, viz. sixty Roman Catholics, thirty Jews, and twenty British; the stones are thrown over the line wall. The intention of this is, to prevent the havock that would ensue from the explosion of the enemy's shells, whenever they open from their batteries, as the weight with which they fall buries them under the surface of the ground, and when they burst, they scatter whatever is near them for seventy or eighty yards around.

8th. The enemy worked very hard last night, and greatly forwarded their approaches:—This morning they fired very brisk on our gardeners, who were forced to retire. A frigate from the west has anchored at the other side.

We

We fired this morning by way of experiment from *Old Mole Head*, six ten-inch shells out of howitzers, one of which penetrated into the centre of the *Tower* battery, which set it on fire, but the *Spaniards* very soon extinguished it. 1780 Dec. 9th.

The wind blowing strong E. and the sea too rough for the gun-boats, three settees arrived from *Minorca*, and a brig from *Leghorn*, with wine and other necessaries. None of the *Spanish* cruisers attempted to stir.

The enemy's covered-way is greatly extended, a few nights more will bring it home to the *Tower* battery. The garrison keep a constant cannonade on the *Spanish* working parties from the heights of *Willis's*.

The enemy's covered-way is not yet completed, owing to the rough and rainy weather; they have extended it very near the East line of their advanced work. This morning five pieces of cannon were laid in the sand behind the *Old Mole*. They have an elevation of 45 degrees, and it is imagined they will send shot (red hot) into the enemy's encampment and Artillery Park. 14th.

Last night the enemy completed their covered-way: they have brought it close home to the East angle of the *Tower* battery—The weather having proved calm, the *Spanish* cruisers again cover the face of the Bay. 15th.

The enemy last night began another line of approach, extending from the left of the *Tower* battery, towards the *Centre-Stone* Guard-house. 16th.

GARRISON

1780

Dec.

16th.

GARRISON ORDERS.

The issues of provision for the next month, to be the same as last, except that only one week's oat-meal, at a pint each ration, can be spared, to leave the usual supply for the hospitals.

17th. The enemy extended their approaches some yards last night, and we, with our usual liberality of shot and shells, repaid their labours.—Several fettees, and polâcres arrived from the East at *Algaziras*.

21st. Wind W. Last night a firing was heard from the Offing for near an hour, which proved to be the *Speed-well* cutter, with dispatches from *England*, engaging a xebec, which was under the necessity of putting into *Ceuta* to repair her damages; the *Speed-well* got safe into *New Mole*, the intelligence brought by her is at present kept secret.

23d. Arrived the *Hannah* privateer, from *England*, with cheese, beef, pork, butter, &c.—a very good supply. It must sensibly aggravate Admiral *Barcello*, notwithstanding the attention and alertness of his armed boats and cruziers, that vessels do frequently drop in here.

25th. This day the deserter that came in the 28th of September was sent to the *Provost*, he being, from indubitable facts, proved a spy. Several writings were found in his possession, inscribed to a *Spanish* officer, together with a plan of the garrison sewed up in a coarse cloth. Among other passages he says, that, “Between the *Advance* and *Dead-man's hole*, the shore is so bold, that they may bring their shipping close
to

to the Rocks, and land the men from off the yards; and, after this is done, to take possession of the travelling pieces of cannon on *Wind-mill-hill*, draw them to the *South-parade*, and cannonade the town." Came in last night, the snow *Kitty* and *Polly* from *Liverpool*, with butter, flour, cheese, and potatoes; the latter sells at six rails per pound. Deserted a soldier in the night. 1780 Dec.

This day two *Moorish* vessels were carried into *Algaziras*; it is conjectured they were destined for this place. 29th.

This forenoon a sloop belonging to the enemy was becalmed off *Europa*, and our boats went out and boarded her—the crew escaped.—She had two pigs and some empty casks on board. It is some time since we had the satisfaction to hoist the *English* colours over the *Spanish*. 30th.

This morning a *Tartan*, laden with brandy and sugar, came in from *Minorca*. She brings no particular intelligence. Last night a serjeant deserted from the back of the Rock. No reason can be assigned for his committing this disgraceful act. 31st.

The enemy keep attentively at work, and forward their approaches and covered retreats with the utmost spirit; their loss of men does not discourage their operations—they seem determined to capture *Gibraltar*. Probably the next year will decide the contest. If they should be successful, and take the garrison, it will be a victory worthy of record; but we have not the least idea of this nature, our bat-

F

teries

1780 teries are so well mounted with heavy ordnance,
Dec. and manned with *Britons*, that the name of
31st. being conquered only excites a desire for action.

I am,

Dear Brother,

Affectionately yours, &c.

LETTER XV.

Gibraltar.

DEAR BROTHER,

1781 OUR prospect is but gloomy ; the enemy
Jan. are very busy, and are still forwarding
10th. works of annoyance. It is conjectured as soon
as the bomb-battery on the isthmus is completed, that the action will begin ; which I doubt not will terminate with glory to *Great Britain*.

This day, under flag of truce, the two *Moorish* gallies, that arrived the 29th of last month, were conducted from *Algaziras* to this place ; they have brought Consul *Logie*, and the *British* families and Jews from *Tangier*. We learn that hostilities are commenced by the *Barbarians* against us, and that the Emperor of *Morocco* has sold the ports of *Tangier* and *Tetuan* to his Catholic Majesty ; by this means the enemy conclude *Gibraltar* must be their own, for that famine will compel us to capitulate.—I hope their expectations will be frustrated, and that,

that, in spite of the united efforts of our foes, 1781
the *British* ensigns will continue flying here. Jan.

GARRISON ORDERS.

*The centries on the sea-line are not to suffer any 14th.
person to land under any part of the line-wall, or
upon the rocks towards the southward, or to remain
on shore there after first gun-fire, but to fire upon
whoever they may discover, either on shore, or at-
tempting to land after that time.*

Last night a *Spanish* frigate was drove by a 15th.
storm under our walls, the garrison took her
for an *English* vessel, therefore did not fire up-
on her; a heavy rain and a thick haze coming
on she escaped, and at day break we perceiv-
ed her at anchor near the *Orange Grove*, in dis-
tress. The two *Moorish* gallies failed from
hence to the west.

GARRISON ORDERS.

*Ration of provisions from the 15th of January,
till the 11th of February.*

MEN PER WEEK.

*Bread, seven pounds; Beef, one ditto; Pork,
one ditto; Pease, one pint; Butter, two ounces and
a half; Cheese, six ounces, in lieu of half a pound
of Beef. The small articles the same as last month.*

Wind W. This morning arrived a brig 16th.
from the *Madeira Islands* with 80 pipes of wine.
She was drove from her moorings in a storm,

F 2

with

1781 with only six hands on board—Her cargo will
Jan. prove a useful supply, and it is much wanted.

18. Wind W. S. W. Last night came in the
Tartar privateer, from *England*, with dispatches
from Government—she had a passage of six-
teen days, and brings the intelligence that
hostilities are commenced against the *Dutch*.—
She had the good fortune to capture four *Dutch*
vessels on her passage, and carried them into
Portugal. The *Enterprize* frigate lying in the
New Mole fired several shot at her, suspecting
her to be an enemy, as she stood towards the
bottom of the Bay, our former anchorage, but
on her hailing in *English* the firing ceased—
happily no damage was done.

General *Elliott* has ordered letters of marque
to be issued against the *Dutch*, in the manner
of those granted against *France* and *Spain*. The
garrison received the above account with uni-
versal satisfaction; the officers and every in-
dividual seemingly felt a martial pleasure upon
the occasion. Whether from it being the an-
niversary of Her Majesty's birth-day, or from
this piece of information, the royal standard
was hoisted, and a rejoicing observed by
the garrison, shipping, boats, &c. by a dis-
charge of cannon at one o'clock—the seamen
manned and cheered, and the land-batteries
saluted the enemy's works with ball.

20th. This morning, soon after day-break, the
serjeant commanding the *Bay-side* (a detached
guard) jumped over the pallisadoes, and walk-
ed gently on towards the enemy's works,
seemingly undetermined, whether to go for-
ward, or return to the garrison. The sentinels
discharged

discharged their musquetry, but it is uncertain whether any of them took effect. 1781

Last night, with a stiff breeze at N. W. the *Young Sabine* and the *Hannah* privateers sailed for *Minorca*. Admiral *Barcello* having missed them this morning, detached a frigate to the east, under all the sail she could croud, but it is not probable she will be able to come up with them, they being near twelve hours sail ahead. Jan. 23d.

Yesterday evening, a foldier deserted, supposed from the heights of the Rock. 25th.

Wind S. E. Arrived the *Tartar*, a French prize, of 26 guns, from *Leghorn*, with wine, oil, brandy, &c. She picked up at sea the *Brilliant's* long-boat, which makes us imagine that frigate was forced to the eastward, with a strong northerly wind. 28th.

Wind E. Last night sailed the *Tartar* privateer, that arrived here on the 18th inst. The enemy threw several rockets from their towers, and this morning we observed a xebec returning from the Gut without her prey. On the land side the enemy continue their labours, nor are we negligent in annoying them. Three soldiers are missing, supposed to have deserted. 29th.

Wind S. E. Arrived a large settee and a *Tartan* from *Minorca*, with wine, &c. They bring word of the *Brilliant's* safe arrival in that port. 30th.

Wind S. W. Yesterday evening sailed a brig from hence, bound to *Mahon* with supplies. The enemy extended their approaches about five yards last night, and threw up several heaps of sand.—Some infantry have marched into their camp, reported to have landed at Cadiz. 31st.

1781 *Cadiz.* Admiral *Barcello* remains at anchor, Jan. but his cruizers frequently come over to peep at our works, and observe the situation of our navy.

I am,

Dear Brother,

Your's &c.

LETTER XVI.

Gibraltar.

DEAR BROTHER,

Feb. 1. **N**OTWITHSTANDING every effort, and the most studious inventions of annoyance that possibly could be adopted or executed, we have hitherto found ourselves inadequate to retard the progress of the enemy's operations; and to do justice to our assailants, they have invariably, from the period of their first labours, to the present forwardness of their approaches, shewn a martial spirit, and undaunted resolution.

The enemy extended another branch of their approach last night, composed of fascines and sand-bags. We fired in the course of an hour 500 round of shot and shells. This morning a soldier deserted from the garrison.

2d. Our men of war's boats went round to the back of the Rock this forenoon, where they found the bodies of the soldier missing yesterday,

day, and the serjeant mentioned 31st of Dec. 1781
 cember last, both in a shattered condition. It Feb.
 is astonishing, notwithstanding the tremendous
 instances so frequently exhibited, they have
 not sufficient terror, to prevent men from en-
 deavouring to escape to the enemy.

This morning at day break, came in a deser- 8th.
 ter from the enemy:—He says, "That the
Spanish General has received an order to recall
 the working parties, in consequence of a pro-
 position made to the Court of *Great Britain*,
 of six millions of money, and a free trade for
 the garrison." There is not any reliance placed
 upon his intelligence. If such an order had
 been received, General *Alvarez* would have
 communicated it to the Garrison. The work-
 ing parties are not very numerous, or else they
 keep much under cover.

Wind E. Arrived the *Salisbury* privateer, 11th.
 from *Minorca*—A large xebec, and several gal-
 lies endeavoured to slip between her and the
 land.

The enemy appear to be in motion on the 14th.
 opposite side: several signals hung out from
 their watch towers, and their cruizers are re-
 turning to the bay. We are in hopes that the
 British fleet are not far off.

Wind N. W. Passed by about thirty sail of 15th.
 neutrals; there being a thick haze we could
 not perceive whether they were ships of force.
 We suppose the signals made yesterday was oc-
 casioned by their appearance off the coast,

GARRISON ORDERS.

Ration of Provision from Feb. 12, to March 11,
 1781.

MEN.

1781
Feb.

MEN PER WEEK.

Bread, seven pounds ; Beef, one ditto ; Pork, one ditto ; Butter, two ounces and half ; Oil $\frac{1}{4}$ pint ; Cheese, six ounces ; pease one pint ; Beans one ditto ; Wheat, one ditto ; Rice, six ounces ; Raisins, six ounces.

18th. Wind strong E. About 11 o'clock last night, the *Salisbury* got under sail :—None of the enemy's cruizers were out on account of the stiff breeze and rough sea.

19th. This afternoon a brig arrived from *Minorca*, in four days and a half, with flour, wine, sugar, and brandy. Two xebecs in vain attempted to approach her as the wind blew very strong from the land. She brings intelligence that the *French* had blockaded *Minorca*.

21st. Last night came in another brig from *Minorca*—It must greatly chagrin Admiral *Barcelo* to view the shipping drop in so providentially, and he incapable of detaching his cruizers to the east.—Very stiff breezes have continued since the 18th inst. at E. and N. E.

27th. Last night a brig with four *Genoese* on board slipped over from *Algaziras* with a few trifling articles. The manner of her coming, and the smallness of her cargo, rather excites a suspicion. The Governor, ever attentive to the safety of the garrison, and doubting the real intention of the crew, has ordered a guard to mount on board her daily, until the affair is more thoroughly investigated.

28th. Last night under a very brisk fire, the enemy threw up a great quantity of sand upon their fascine

fascine works. It is supposed their approaches 1781
are about twenty feet high. We this day di- Feb.
rected our fire to the west entrance of the 28th.
lines, as many covered carts were observed
passing there.

This month has closed without indulging
our expectations of success, but the events of
it do not dispirit our hopes of happier conse-
quences to our future efforts.

I am, &c.

L E T T E R XVII.

Gibraltar.

DEAR BROTHER,

AR T and Ingenuity are with us so pervert- Mar. 5
ed from all benevolent exertions, that one
would be induced to suppose from the destruc-
tive nature of our experiments, that the ruin
of man was the sole purpose of their efforts.
The over-ruling necessity which orders our
preparations for war and havock, cannot rob
the mind of its distresses on contemplating the
lamentable occasions which render indis-
pensable Quadrants, Spirit-levels, and instru-
ments of various forms and machinery, which
adorn the batteries, for the more exact and
certain method of killing. Every one seems
anxious to find out the safest, quickest, and
surest method of dispatch, in the elevation and
depression of the ordnance. I suppose in a
few weeks more practice, they will be so ex-
pert

1781. pert in levelling a gun, that should a *Spainard*
 Mar. 5 raise his head above the épaulement,* it will be immediately severed from his shoulders; for an emulative spirit has dispersed itself to such a pitch among our artists, that almost every day produces some new contrivance for the promotion of slaughter!

Wind E. Last night arrived a settee from *Minorca*, with sundry useful articles for the garrison; the Patron relates, that three *French* frigates are cruising off the harbour to prevent succours going in or coming out of that place.

7th. This morning, a little before the new guard came to relieve the old *Landport* guard, a soldier on duty there jumped over the pallisadoes near the gate, and ran off. The several guards fired 1143 musquet shot at him, beside grape. He entered the *Spanish* lines with every demonstration of joy, waving his hat.

9th. Yesterday and this day we had several hours artillery-practice on the batteries at the enemy's works; with the new-invented Quadrants and Levels:—the ordnance was well directed—much success is promised from the merit of the several instruments under trial. The enemy, with great earnestness, became spectators from Forts St. *Phillippe* and *Barbary*, as our guns only played upon the advance-works on the isthmus.

GARRISON ORDERS.

11th. *The rations of provisions from the 12th of March to the 8th of April, the same as last month, except that no wheat will be delivered.*

Wind

* A part of fortification, which covers breast-high, composed of earth, gabions, &c.

Wind E. Came in a polacre and a *Tartan*, 1781 from *Minorca*, with wine and brandy; the March latter received several shot from one of the 16th. enemy's galleys that endeavoured to cut her off.—The *French* continue the investment of *Minorca*.

The enemy on the land side are attentive to their operations, which we endeavour to check by a smart fire; we suppose they are mounting ordnance in their advanced works. Yesterday a foldier deserted from the garrison.

Arrived a *Tuscan* polacre, and the *Tartar* 18th. cutter from *Minorca*, with brandy and caravances.—A xebec stood over from *Ceuta*, but too late to prevent their entrance.

Yesterday evening, the *Tuscan* polacre failed 22d. on her passage to *Lisbon*, but the enemy took her in the night, and this morning carried her into *Algaziras*.

Came in a half-xebec (a prize) taken by one 26th. of the *Minorca* privateers. She says the *French* frigates so closely watch the entrance into that harbour, that it is almost impossible for a vessel coming in or going out, to escape. The *French* naval force is too powerful at *Mahon* for the *British* to attack them.

Last night (Wind W. N. W.) the *Enterprize* 29th. frigate failed from hence on her passage to *Minorca*. The repeated intelligence of the *French* having blockaded that Port, occasioned her departure, and we flatter ourselves when she arrives there, our force will be equal to theirs; the *Brilliant* and *Minorca* frigates being already on that station.—This forenoon, a brig, half-bay over, was taken by the enemy's cruizers; the crew, being nine in number, escaped in a boat:

1781 **March** boat: they mention, "That the *British* fleet had twice put to sea, but was forced to return, owing to bad weather, and contrary winds." They brought some poultry in their boat, which will afford them a present supply; the fowls sold for four dollars each, equal to twelve shillings and nine-pence; pigeons, three dollars per couple, equal to nine shillings and seven-pence; ducks, eight dollars four rials per couple, equal to one pound six-shillings and six-pence. Every species of provision is sold at the same rate, and most of the salt meat in the garrison is quite rotten.

I am,

Dear Brother,

Affectionately Yours.

LETTER XVIII.

Gibraltar.

DEAR BROTHER,

April 3d. **T**HE garrison are noisy with tumultuous joy, occasioned by the arrival of a cutter last night from the West: she brings the captivating and enlivening intelligence of the *British* fleet, for the relief of the garrison, being on their passage. We seem to be another people—no depression of spirits—every countenance is adorned with satisfactory smiles—a social greeting of friends and acquaintances, congratulatory

congratulatory of the happiness about to be experienced. 1781
April

This morning two fire-ships were removed from *Algaziras* towards *Cabritta-Point*, intended by the enemy to run in among our fleet: three others are at *Orange Grove*, and several ready in the rivers. We are apprehensive of their being a great annoyance to our shipping.

Last night sailed the *St. Fermin* sloop, the 4th. *Brilliant's* tender, and a settee, for *Minorca*. Two xebecs immediately put to sea in pursuit of them, with a fine breeze at West. The enemy are very busy on the opposite side, in getting their fire-ships out of the rivers.

This evening four armed boats, composed 6th. of a detachment of five men from each regiment, under the command of a naval officer, proceeded from the *New Mole* on an expedition, to cut out the two fire-ships which lay at anchor under *Cabritta*. It continued rainy and cloudy till they had got within a mile of them, when, on a sudden, the clouds dispersed, and Luna reflected so great a light, that they were under the necessity of returning without accomplishing the business, the enemy having discovered the boats, and made a position of defence.

Rations of provisions from the 9th of April to the 6th of May.

MEN PER WEEK.

Beef, thirteen ounces; pork, thirteen ditto; butter, two ounces and half; raisins, twelve ounces; pease, half pint; beans, one ditto; wheat, one ditto; rice, four ounces; oil, 1-4th pint.

Bread

1781 *Bread issued to officers and men one pound and half*
 April *every two days.*

8th. Wind W. About eleven this forenoon, we discovered a small sail under the *Barbary* shore: about two o'clock the enemy's squadron weighed and stood for her, consisting of one xebec, one galley, one cutter, and 15 large gun-boats, (mounting twenty-six pounders;) as soon as they had reached her, they opened furiously both with round and grape shot, which she as briskly and heroically returned; broadside for broadside continued till she got under cover of the guns, when she received repeated and loud huzzas from the garrison. It is remarkable, notwithstanding the heavy cannonade, not a man was killed, and only a few wounded. She proves to be the *Eagle* cutter from *Port-Glasgow*, but brings no account about the fleet.

12th. Last night, between eleven and twelve o'clock, arrived off the *Mole Head*, the *Kite* cutter; she being challenged by the officer of the *Mole* guard, loudly answered, "From the fleet," which immediately spread like wild-fire throughout the garrison; *Morpheus* resigned his sovereignty, and slumber was forgotten; each found sufficient employ and satisfaction in conversing on the interesting subject.—We conjectured in the evening the *British* fleet was near at hand, as the enemy's towers and coast were greatly illuminated, and a number of rockets thrown up at *Cabritta*. At six this morning the fleet appeared in the *Offing*, arranged in admirable order, standing for the garrison, with a gentle breeze at S.W.

A shout

A shout of joy instantly ensued from every 1781
 corner, battery, and height, on the discovery. April
 About nine, eighteen of the enemy's gun-boats 12th.
 sailed out from *Algaziras*, but kept pretty well
 under the land: at ten they began a brisk fire
 from the boats and battery at the point, upon
 our shipping; two frigates bore down upon
 them, and played so warmly, that the enemy
 made to land. The battery at *Sandy Bay*, and
 the Island at *Algaziras* (mounted with forty-
 two pounders) endeavoured to annoy our ship-
 ping, but to little purpose, as most of their shot
 fell wide. One ship has just dropt anchor.—
 A call to arms prevents my further writing;
 the enemy have opened all their batteries on
 the town; confusion and consternation are
 every where to be seen!—Adieu, dear brother,
 I must hasten to the alarm post.

* * * * *

Six o'clock in the evening.

The necessary dispositions having been made
 by the Governor, for the defence of the garri-
 son, I again resume the subject on the several
 transactions of the day, (during the few mo-
 ments I am unemployed from duty) and shall
 endeavour as far as the noise of rattling can-
 non and bursting shells will permit, to give
 you a faint description of the occurrences
 which took place about a quarter before twelve
 this forenoon, when the enemy perceived the
 men of war had passed the Gut, and a few en-
 tered

1781 tered the Bay, they opened all their batteries,
 April (in the lines and on the isthmus) with shot and
 12th. shells on the town. The bombardment com-
 menced on a signal from the *Orange Grove*,
 whilst the inhabitants and soldiery were amu-
 sing themselves with the aspection of the ship-
 ping. This sudden alarm spread universal con-
 sternation, and the joy predicted on the arri-
 val of the fleet was now turned into an unde-
 scribable sorrow.—The soldiers hastened to
 their posts, and the inhabitants to their houses,
 many of which were instantly in flames from
 the effect of the enemy's shells: the obvious-
 ness of grief on their part is feelingly expres-
 sive;—their property consuming with rapidi-
 ty—the uncertainty of self-preservation—the
 anxiety for the safety of their relatives and
 dearest kindred—the irretrievability of reco-
 vering the greater part of their valuables; add
 to this, the mangled spectacles of some already
 fallen from the cannonade, impelled them to
 fly from such a scene of horror, and if possi-
 ble, secure a place of shelter, however indif-
 ferent: precipitation marked their footsteps,
 and the confluence of men, women, and chil-
 dren at *South-port Gate*, prevented a considera-
 ble time, numbers from obtaining a speedy
 passage, which when they accomplished,
 they fled in crowds to the heights of the
 Rock, out of the reach of the enemy's land
 fire. Here appalled, they mingled together
 indiscriminately, within sight of their former
 dwellings, now in a state of incineration—
 Commiserable situation!—shells explode over
 their heads—cries echo—and vivid flashes
 pierce the clouds of smoke that cover devasta-
 tion;

tion; the thunder of the cannon reverberate 1781
dreadfully to their ears, and every concussion April
renews their trepidation. 12th.

I must now proceed to give you some account of the casualties collected. A fettee was sunk by a shell lying at the *Tanks*, near the *New Mole*—the enemy's shot drop but short of that place. A shell which exploded on the hill, wounded Lieutenant *Boag* of the Royal Artillery. A serjeant and several men wounded in the lines; the serjeant's hand was torn off by the violence of the shell:—three men wounded at *Grand Battery*; two at *South Port*; three men killed in *King's Lines*, and one at *South-Port*, by a piece of a shell that burst in the air. A shell which entered a house in *Southport-street*, in the explosion blew a *Genoese* woman out of a window, but fortunately she only received a bruize by the fall.

The enemy are endeavouring to burn our shipping, by throwing shells with a view to reach the *New Mole*. The greater part of the *English* men of war, keep cruising off *Europa*. Admirals *Darby*, *Digby*, and *Ross* are in the Bay. Our town appears from the heights at the *Southward*, to be insuppressively on fire, and the fulgent blaze truly horrific:—the total demolition of the houses is thought to be inevitable. We are prepared for the enemy, should they attempt during the night to storm the garrison. Detachments having been sent to reinforce the several guards, and additional picquets mounted in the town districts. 13th.

The tremendousness of the cannonade last night (supported with the utmost vivacity on both sides) and which still continues with unabating

G

1781 bating rage, exhibited a truly grand and aw-
 April ful spectacle of war. The varied repercussions
 13th. from the Rock, of exploding shells, and the
 reiterated sound of cannon and mortars, were
 such as stunned the air, whilst the eye traced
 with pain the ravaging effect, and gazed with
 anguish on the continual flash of ordnance,
 spreading desolation in every direction.

The town is deserted by all but the soldiery,
 who amidst the roar of guns, mortars, howit-
 zers, and shells, are busy in retorting on the
 enemy the woes of war. One minute a shot
 batters a house about your ears, and the next
 a shell drops at your feet; here you lie pro-
 strate, waiting the mercy of the explosion; if
 you escape unhurt, you are perfectly stunned,
 and almost suffocated with an intolerable stench
 of powder and sulphur. On every hand slaugh-
 tered objects lie before you, harrowing up the
 tender feelings of the soul: one loses an arm
 or leg, another cut through the body, a third
 is blown to pieces with the bursting of a shell:
 indulgent parents lamenting the loss of sons,
 and women and children for husbands and fa-
 thers. Here we behold passions unfeigned,
 grief without mockery, and distress without a
 veil.

A detachment is ordered to march, to rein-
 force a part of the works considered too weak
 for a strong attack, or to relieve another who
 have stood twenty-four hours facing an inve-
 terate foe; probably before they reach the post
 my comrade falls by my side, my acquaintance
 receives a wound, and my best of friends loses
 the arm that was ever ready to cherish and
 supply.

No

No one is exempt from duty: a husband is 1781.
 called upon; the service demands his immediate April
 presence, nor dare he stay to take his 13th.
 farewell by imprinting an affectionate kiss;
 the thundering *Mars*, envious of his felicity,
 raises the javelin for destruction, and levels his
 commiserating partner while he is absent; not
 satisfied with lopping off so material a branch
 of happiness, but extends his decisive com-
 mands over their tender offspring. On his
 return—O sensibility! what a ravaging scene
 is presented to his view! let imagination con-
 ceive;—a wife that soothed his every uneasi-
 ness, and softened the rigours of his fate,
 alas! no more—his dear beloved children, that
 prattled with a thousand innocent and engage-
 ing smiles, and lisped forth their duteous ac-
 cents, that tended to dissipate the heart-cor-
 roding cares of life, and promising to be a
 comfort in his aged days, are now reduced to
 a lifeless lump of clay. Will not his heart
 break forth in exclamation, *‘O my beloved wife!
 ‘ my charming son! my amiable daughter! not suf-
 ‘ fered to kiss those lips while warm, nor to press
 ‘ you to a bosom to which you was ever dear!’*

What inexpressible anguish must the per-
 formers feel in the trying scenes and tragical
 exhibitions, delineated with the most descrip-
 tive wretchedness and misery. This must
 move pity in every heart, if not steeled against
 every humanizing principle.

I cannot authentically learn the number al-
 ready fallen by the cannonade;—various are
 the conjectures. An account is just arrived,
 that Surgeon *Chisholm* of the 56th regiment,
 has lost a leg by a shot, and that *Lieutenant*

1781 *Budworth* of the 72^d. regiment, is wounded.
 April Two soldiers, and a boy of a wine-house, this
 13th. instant killed at *Southport*, by the explosion of a
 shell. The road from that gate to the naval
 hospital, is occupied by men carrying wound-
 ed soldiers from the batteries. Report says,
 several persons are killed in town. The regi-
 ments not lodged in bomb proofs in the town,
 are to receive camp equipage, and remove to
 their quarters marked out on the rising ground
 from *South Barracks* towards *Windmill-hill*.

14th. The fire from the enemy is computed at
 about three thousand shot and shells every
 twenty-four hours, which probably surpasses
 the heaviest cannonade recorded in history.
 The damage done to the town is beyond cre-
 dibility; the greatest part of the houses and
 effects consumed, and others blown into ruins
 by the bursting of the shells.

This forenoon, eleven *Spanish* gun-boats be-
 gan a fire upon our shipping, and carried away
 the foretop-mast of one of the men of war.
 These squadrons of gun-boats (each mounted
 with a twenty-six pounder) contribute their
 quota to render our days and nights infinitely
 miserable and alarming, marking the several
 encampments for proscription, seizing on our
 retired hours like nightly robbers, filling the
 mind with the most agonizing apprehension,
 awakening the garrison from the repose wea-
 ried nature requires; and before you can scarce
 open your eyes, and prepare for the alarm,
 death stares you in the face, or you feel a pre-
 cious limb mangled, or hastily torn away.

The frequent interspersions of shot, and the
 ignition occasioned by the enemy's shells,
 which

which incessantly are poured on every part of the Rock within their reach, is beyond description dreadful. No place of safety! Not one spot, but these unfriendly intruders visit, spreading mortality in their circumrotation; volleys of shocking misery are hourly discharged, and the wearied soldiery, though overpowered with fatigue from continual military toil, are much prevented from enjoying the few hours allotted for repose, which a small part of the garrison only are exempted from duty, in the daily proportion of guards, picquets, &c. Every one finds an interest in watching—not one moment's security. If slumber should close your eyes, probably they might not view the enlivening rays of Aurora in the morning.

The wounded men are numerously carrying from the town districts to the Naval Hospital. Almost every hour furnishes a new instance of the cruelty of war. One man has now passed me in a mangled situation too dreadful to describe. Ensign *Martin* of the 39th regiment is wounded, but not dangerously. A few soldiers killed this day, and a great number wounded.

The *British* fleet have not yet come to anchor, but keep hovering round the Rock. The enemy support the cannonade with unremitting spirit, and their artillery seem to direct their sole attention to the consuming of the town. The damage already done would fall far short of any estimate that at present can be made. The batteries which were deemed sufficiently strong, share in the general ruin, and parties are labouring at the repair in the most

1781 most imminent danger. The firing from
 April the garrison is masterly and well support-
 15th. ed, carrying into the enemy's lines and works
 the sad effects of internecion, which is evident
 from the number of wounded we observe fre-
 quently conveying to their camp on litters.

Apathy alone can view the situation of the
 inhabitants on the heights of the Rock
 without pain ; the most fortunate are only in
 possession of a thin piece of canvas or sail-cloth
 to screen them from the scorching heat of the
 day, and excessive dew of the night. Not
 any conveniency to dress the small portion
 of food some have procured, whilst others are
 in a famishing condition. Judge, dear Bro-
 ther, their dreadful state from the following
 fact which, though a soldier, drew the compas-
 sionate tear from my eyes. Mrs. M——, a mer-
 chant's lady, came to the encampment with a
 child in her arms, accident threw me in her
 way, when with a voice that must have melted
 the most unfeeling heart, she supplicated for a
 little salt broth for her infant : I ran instantly
 and procured what she requested, and seated
 her in my small tent. She assured me she had
 tasted nothing for the two days past, and
 that the preservation of her dear infant, induced
 her alone to visit the encampment. I left her
 with the small repast I had procured, and
 retired behind the tent. But how can language
 paint the lively emotions of my heart, in hear-
 ing her offer up a prayer to heaven for my
 preservation ; I confess I was unmanned—a
 merchant's lady three days ago in possession
 of affluency, now reduced to total want, and

to

to solicit from a *soldier* a portion of his small 1781
allowance! Let this, Brother, be a lesson to April
you to receive with thanksgiving the a- 15
bundant bounties of Providence, dispensed to
man.

Havock still continues!—Several of the inhabitants in endeavouring to save part of their property in town, have lost their lives. A corporal had his hand shot off as he was calling from a window to a man in the street. A soldier was found so miserably torn by a shell, that he could not be known only by part of his dress. A shot killed two soldiers this morning, one of whom was brushing his shoes for guard. Surgeon *Kruger* of *De La Motte's* regiment, was wounded by a splinter of a shell. A *Genoese* youth, endowed with every amiable qualification, on the point of nuptial celebration, was unfortunately killed. The lady to whom his addresses were paid, fled on the intelligence to the place where he had fallen, and clasped his mangled body in her arms.—She was carried home in a state of insensibility.

The seamen and soldiers are assiduously employed in unloading the shipping, as the fleet is not intended to be detained here longer than the provision is landed. The parties work day and night—one from sun-rise to sun-set, and another from sun-set to sun-rise.—The town is become a heap of ruins—the greatest part of the houses are either burnt, or battered down. The showers of shot from the enemy are beyond credibility—such perdurable discharges, with such unbounded impetuosity, that the ear is stunned with the multiplied sounds.

I cannot

1781 I cannot, dear Brother, omit penning the
 April following conversation between two soldiers in
 15th. *Irish-Town* yesterday. I met *Jack Careless** in
 the street, singing with uncommon glee (not-
 withstanding the enemy were firing with pro-
 digious warmth) part of the old song,

“ A soldier’s life’s a merry life,
 “ From care and trouble free.”

He ran to his comrade with eagerness, and
 presenting his bottle, cried, *D--n me, if I don’t
 like fighting : I’d like to be ever tanning the Dons :
 plenty of good liquor for carrying away—never was
 the price so cheap—fine stuff—enough to make a mi-
 ser quit his gold.* Why, *Jack*, said he, what
 have you been about ? With an arch grin he
 replied, *That would puzzle a heathen philosopher,
 or yearly almanack-maker, to unriddle—I scarce
 know myself. I have been constantly on foot and
 watch, half-starved, and without money, facing a
 parcel of pitiful Spaniards. I have been fighting,
 wheeling, marching, and counter-marching ; some-
 times with a firelock, then with a handspike, and
 now my bottle, brandishing it in the air. I am so
 pleased with the melody of great guns, that I con-
 sider myself as a Roman general, gloriously fighting
 for my country’s honour and liberty. A shell that
 instant burst, a piece of which knocked the
 bottle out of his hand : with the greatest com-
 posure he replied (having first graced it with an
 oath) *This is not any loss, I have found a whole
 cask by good luck* (and brought him to view his
 treasure.) But, *Jack*, says he, are you not
 thankful to God for your preservation ? *How*
*do**

* A soldier well known in the Garrison by that name.

do you mean, answered Jack? Fine talking of God 1781
 with a soldier, whose trade and occupation is cutting April
 throats: Divinity and slaughter sound very well to- 15th.
 gether, they gingle like a crack'd bell in the hand of
 a noisy crier: our King is answerable to God for us;
 I fight for him. My religion consists in a firelock,
 open touch-hole, good flint, well-rammed charge,
 and seventy rounds of powder and ball: This is the
 military creed. Come, comrade, drink Success to
 the British arms. On his asking him for a glass,
 he seemed surpris'd, Why, (says he,) you may
 well know there is not one to be had, but here
 is something that will do as well, (and he took
 up a piece of a shell;) here is a cup fit for a
 monarch; this was not purchased with gold or
 friendship, but with the streams of our countrymens'
 blood. Having filled the piece of shell, he
 gave it to his comrade to drink. Come Jack,
 (said he) Here is King George and Victory!
 And he that would not drink the same (replied he)
 I'd give him an ounce of lead to pay Charon to ferry
 him over the river Styx.

I am,

Dear Brother,

Affectionately Yours.

GARRISON ORDERS.

Full allowance of Beef and Pork, five ounces of
 Butter, quarter of a pint Oil, one pint Pease, one
 ditto Kidney Beans, two pints of Wheat, and twelve
 ounces of Raisins, to be served to-morrow.

LETTER

LETTER XIX.

Gibraltar.

DEAR BROTHER,

1781
April 19th. **T**HE bombardment is kept up vigorously by the enemy; a continuation of unceasing firing, particularly directed to *Willis's Heights*, the King's and Prince's lines—*Landport* and *Waterport* also sustain their share. The flag of *England* seems to enrage our opponents, as they have directed three pieces of cannon to play upon *Flag-staff Guard*—one shot struck the standard this forenoon. Believe me, you would smile could you have seen the readiness of the Royal Artillery to replace the damage, amidst the vivacious discharges of the *Dons*, whose vengeance seemed more forcibly roused, by our men immediately nailing on the flag.

The regiments whose quarters in town have been destroyed, are now encamped upon the different heights of the Rock at the southward, from the rising ground at the back of the Barracks, extending to the gate at *Windmill-hill*.—The inhabitants have begun erecting temporary sheds—some in the Gullies between *Buena Vista* and *Europa*, others on *Windmill-hill*, nor is there scarce any part of the Rock, out of the reach of the enemy's land fire, but what is covered with marquees, tents, huts, &c. &c. Timber is taken from the ruins of the town to answer this necessary business, and the employment occasioned thereby keeps all hands busy. A pleasure boat came over this morning from the *Orange Grove*, and remained at long

long gun shot distance near an hour, viewing 1781
(as we suppose) the variety of buildings, which April
must exhibit an odd appearance from the Bay. 19th.

The military in the *Spanish* camp assemble in the front of their tents every evening, and bodies of infantry march immediately after into their lines ; a reinforcement of officers and men are therefore detached to town, exclusive of the daily guards, as we cannot but expect a speedy attack from the land side.— General *Elliott* has prepared to receive them with military politeness, not sparingly, but amply provided for their reception ; an excellent repast of shells of different sizes, round and grape shot, * hand grenades, carcases, &c. are ready to be served up at the shortest notice, for the entertainment of General *Alvarez* and his troops, when they attempt the expugnation of the Rock.

The following List contains the number of officers and men who mount guard and piquet every day.

	Cpts.	Subs.	Serjs.	Cors.	Dms.	Privs.
Town guards	8	14	49	54	15	521
South guards	3	7	15	20	9	270
Artillery	1	3	9	11	0	106
<hr/>						
Piquets	12	24	73	85	24	897
	0	13	13	15	13	689
<hr/>						
Total	12	37	86	100	37	1586

N. B. The Field Officers are not included in the above number.

Laft

* A small hollow globe of iron, filled with powder, and fired by a fuze ; they are thrown by the hand, and are of great annoyance in battle. Children may throw them over a wall.

1781 Last night a soldier deserted from *Prince's-April lines Guard*, how he escaped is impossible to 19th. conjecture, as neither rope, nor ladder could be discovered.

This forenoon arrived a ship from the West. Admiral *Barcello* is very quiet on the opposite side, nor has he shewn the least indication to run in any of his fire-ships among the shipping already anchored. Our men of war keep tacking backwards and forwards, which very much disconcerts the enemy in the plans they had adopted for their destruction. The fire-ships which lay at *Cabritta*, are removed to *Algazirras*, where the *Spanish* squadron have hauled close under the land. The fire from the lines and isthmus continues without intermission, excepting from twelve to two o'clock at noon, when they rather slacken to cool their ordnance, at which time General *Elliott* takes the opportunity of relieving the town guards.

20th. Admiral *Lockhart Ross*, has been indefatigable in landing the provision. His attention to the soldiery evinces the goodness of his heart, both as an officer and a man of feeling. He learned that a soldier was confined for taking a biscuit, he liberated the man with a severe admonishing; then calling to a Cooper, directed him to open a cask of biscuit, and butter, which he distributed among them: "*My good lads, (said he) steal nothing—your countenances speak the hardships you have suffered, and whilst I command here you shall have plenty to eat.*"—He also caused several baskets of cheese to be opened, which he delivered with a countenance expressive of the satisfaction he felt.

Wind

Wind N. E. This forenoon Admiral *Darby* 1781 made signal for sail; several vessels got under April weigh from *Rosia*, and in the evening they 21st. were all out of sight. The *Spanish* towers, as usual, spread the alarm; the enemy discharged their ordnance with great fury, intimating, that now our floating castles were departed, they had nothing to obstruct the exercise of their malignant rage. They have damaged our works in several parts, which we carefully repair during the course of the night. We have not as yet lost many men in the execution of our operations.

The enemy continue their brisk fire on the 23d. garrison, and this day Lieutenant *Cunningham* of the 39th regiment was much wounded; it is imagined by the faculty it will prove mortal. A soldier this day had both his legs shot off; he seemed rejoiced at the loss, and exclaimed, *I am now dismissed from the drill and black hole*; which his negligence rendered indispensibly necessary often to inflict upon him.

This day a thirteen-inch shell, fired from the 24th. enemy's works, dropped in the *King's Bastion*, and wounded seven men; three of them in a very bad condition.—Our batteries are rather remiss in returning the fire, reserving the ammunition for other purposes.

Wind E. Arrived from *Minorca*, the *Bril-* 27th. *liant*, *Porcupine*, *Enterprize*, and *Minorca* frigates, two small xebecs, and sixteen sail of *Tartans* and settees, with a supply of wine, biscuit, carravances,* &c. for government account. Admiral *Barcello*, no doubt, was desperately

* A small bean, about the size of a kidney-bean.

1781 perately enraged at the arrival of this unexpected
 April convoy: after having loosed his sails,
 27th. and made every appearance of putting to sea,
 he fired a gun, which was answered at *Ceuta*,
 as a signal for them to keep a sharp look out to
 the eastward; his sails were then nimbly furled
 again.

Came in two deserters from the enemy's
 Walloon Guards. They bring the intelligence
 that the *Spaniards* are expeditiously getting in
 readiness scaling ladders, and all necessary
 equipments for an attack, and that in a few
 months we may depend upon being vigorously
 stormed both by land and sea. This is looked
 upon as contemptible presumption: for *Britons*,
 whilst led on by veteran chiefs, and gallant
 heroes, will ever defend these envied battle-
 ments and walls from *Spain's* approaches, and
 compel them to return, after all their pomp
 and parade, amidst disgust and disappointment
 of the desired glory. The enemy's gun and
 mortar-boats came over last night, and fired
 upon the inhabitants retreats, and troops en-
 campments; on this occasion, a soldier's wife
 was killed, as she was hastily dressing herself
 in the tent, in order to seek some place of re-
 fuge. Some others were slightly wounded.

28th. This morning, their being a calm sea, the
 gun and mortar-boats gave us a pretty brisk
 fire. The garrison and shipping kept up a hot
 cannonade upon them, but unfortunately they
 killed one soldier, and wounded six others, of
 different regiments. They fired between two
 and three hundred rounds.

At ten o'clock this forenoon, a party assem-
 bled at the lower extremity of the *Old Mole*
 (or

(or *Devil's Tongue*) to make an experiment of 1781
 reaching the *Spanish* camp, from two sea-mor- April
 tars planted there. The first shell we threw fell 28th.
 within a few yards of the East angle of their
 grand magazine, which seemed to fill the ene-
 my with consternation; not imagining it was
 practicable to have annoyed them in that part
 from the garrison, the distance being 3056
 yards. We threw several, which fell in differ-
 ent parts of their encampment—one burst in
 the air about half way, the splinters of which
 were seen to fall near the shore above the bat-
 tery (now called the *Black Battery*) on the right
 of *St. Phillippe*. It is reported, the intention
 of this is, to convince the enemy that we
 shall be able to repay the compliment upon
 their encampment, whenever their boats visit
 ours.

The southward heights of the garrison were
 lined with a number of the inhabitants, who
 willingly became spectators (out of the reach
 of danger) of the experimental exhibition,
 impatiently waiting the discharge; but when
 they perceived the shell fall upon the *Spanish*
 land, they repeatedly gave loud acclamations,
 happy in their minds that we had found out a
 means of annoying the enemy's camp.

Wind E. Last night sailed the *Enterprise* 29th.
 and *Minorca* frigates, for *England*, with several
 other ships under convoy: the enemy have
 not detached any of their shipping from *Alga-*
ziras in pursuit of them. A signal was observ-
 ed this morning on the tower at *Cabritta*,
 which we imagine was intended to alarm the
 cruizers at *Cadiz*. Admiral *Barcello* seems less
 attentive in watching the port, as very few of
 his

1781 his cruizers are out. From the land side we
 April are plentifully supplied with shot and shells; their batteries continue raging nearly the whole twenty-four hours of each day. The enemy are profusely liberal, and, with an unexampled generosity, repay the cannonade.

Your's, &c.

LETTER XX.

Gibraltar.

DEAR BROTHER,

May 1 **A**MIDST the clamour of war, shells bursting, shot flying, and houses burning, a continual scene of sulphur, smoke, and fire; whenever I have any hours unemployed from duty, I dedicate them to your service. Death stares me in the face every minute, and therefore what I write you may look upon as the sincere sentiments of my heart. The streets of the town are like a desert, and almost every house burnt, or torn with shot and shells. In some parts the shot and broken pieces of shells are so thick, that in walking your feet does not touch the ground. The enemy have kept up a fire these twenty days past, and it is believed, before they cease, our small arms will be busily employed. The enemy's gun and mortar-boats are firing from the Bay. A shell, which now burst, forced me to run with my papers in my hand, to avoid danger.—The groans of one in misery has reached my ears
 — I must

—I must haste to his assistance. On my going 1781
to the other side of a traverse, I found a sol- May
dier, with both legs broke by a piece of the
shell which occasioned my retreat—a miserable
spectacle! The gun-boats are gone, having
fired about three hundred rounds at the south-
ward. I do not hear of any particular damage
done.

This forenoon a soldier was executed for 5th.
plunder, at the place where the fact was com-
mitted, with a label upon his breast denoting
the same. He was left hanging till sun-set.

The gun and mortar-boats paid us a general 8th.
salute; the garrison and shipping made a re-
turn:—happily not any damage was done on
our side.

This day the enemy made a shameful sea- 12th.
attack: after near two hours discharge of their
ordnance, they triumphantly retreated to
spread their great exploits and bold achieve-
ments along their coast, without having thrown
a shot or shell on shore. We imagine that they
must have suffered considerably on the 8th
from our fire.

The gun and mortar-boats last night again 13th.
disturbed us with their firing, but only da-
maged a few huts in our encampment. These
nocturnal expeditions are of great annoyance
to the garrison, as the duty of the soldiery is
very fatiguing, being constantly on foot for
six or seven days and nights together; and
probably, when it comes to their turn to have
a night to rest in, these common disturbers
make their appearance. It is really lamenta-
ble, that we cannot adopt a means of destroy-
ing them.

H

Last

1781 Last night, a man was discovered advancing
 May. in slow steps towards the garrison, on the road
 20th. leading from *Bay-side* to *Landport*; but when
 he came pretty near the advanced guard, he
 crawled upon his hands and knees: a *Hanoverian*
 serjeant, on duty there, challenged him
 before he came as far as the work, upon which
 he made a retreat. Lieutenant *Whetham*, of the
 58th regt. immediately made a sally with great
 activity, but when on the point of seizing him,
 he unfortunately fell into a shell-hole, which
 gave the other time to pull through *Bay-side*.
 A gold-laced hat was picked up on the road,
 which makes us imagine that he was an officer
 in the enemy's service, who had come to view
 the situation of the place, and how far a de-
 tachment might advance in the night before
 they would be discovered. Our guards in the
 lines fired pretty briskly, and was very near
 killing the officer that sallied out.

26th. The gun and mortar-boats came over last
 night, and gave the camp a very brisk salute.
 Several people were killed and wounded. The
New Mole, *Parson's Lodge*, *Buena Vista*, and
South Bastion, fired remarkably warm upon
 them, but could not make them desist: when
 their ammunition was all expended, they then
 took their leave. A shell from the *Mill-Tower*
Battery fell into a house at the back of *South-*
Shed Guard, by which a child was killed, and
 a man and two women wounded; the man is
 in so dangerous a way, that his life is despaired
 of. I cannot close this account, without in-
 forming you, that the mother of the above
 child was killed on the 28th of April, by the
 fire

fire of the gun-boats, and that the husband is almost disconsolate for their loss. 1781

This day two soldiers were executed at the *White Convent* for plunder. The town-guards, by order of the Governor, marched past while they were hanging. May 29th.

This day, another soldier was executed for the same crime: the General is a very humane man, but cannot overlook so great an infringement of martial law. It is amazing, that men should sport away their existence, for the gratification of their sensual appetites, as the crimes for which they all suffered were for plundering the king's stores of provisions and liquor. I hope that these examples will be sufficient to deter the unthinking part from committing the same acts. 30th.

The enemy's fire is not so brisk as at the first; they are pretty moderate during the day, but at night play more freely. It is asserted, they do not fire above sixteen or eighteen hundred rounds *per diem*. Since my last, the following officers have been wounded.

Lieutenant *Willington*, Royal Artillery,

Lieutenant *Lowe* and *Thornton*, of the 12th.

And Captain *Foulis*, of the 73d regiments.

☞ Lieutenant *Cunningham*, 39th regiment, died of his wounds the 6th instant.

We are in continual expectation of being stormed by the enemy, but we begin to be so inured to dangers, that the sound of it is no more regarded than an old tale. Wishing you every joy, peace, and contentment, I subscribe myself.

Your affectionate Brother,

H 2

LETTER

LETTER XXI.

Gibraltar.

DEAR BROTHER,

1781
June
1st.

ALL the pleasure I have is to write to you, and receive your answers. The enemy keep their usual warm fire on the garrison, and we are hourly waiting their assault. You are far out of the reach of danger. You may sleep contented, nor dread a vigorous fire of thirteen-inch shells, and twenty-six pound shot, which here we are continually supplied and entertained with, I assure you the *Dons*, in this respect, evince a martial taste, and are beyond belief liberal:

Yesterday evening we made a prize of a *Neapolitan* brig. Our batteries fired at her, which obliged her to come in, she having received several shot. She is laden with flour, consigned to the enemy: We brought her in to the *New Mole*.

This morning, at two o'clock, the *Spanish* gun and mortar-boats came over, and fired upwards of three hundred rounds, and then retired; two soldiers were wounded, but not dangerously; they damaged several of the huts — We fired a number of shells, which burst in the air over them. It is conjectured they must have suffered considerably. On the land side the enemy fired excessive hard all the night, such repeated volleys that it was impossible distinctly to tell how many guns were discharged each time; they have greatly shattered our works,

works, but they cannot abate our spirits.— 1781
Courage is Britons' Prerogative. June

GARRISON ORDERS.

Provisions as usual, except that for one pound of beef, three quarters of a pound of cheese will be issued weekly.

This morning the Royal Standard was hoisted 4th.
 on flag-staff, and at noon we gave the enemy a ROYAL SALUTE with shot, in honour of his Majesty's birth-day. The *Spanish* working parties were busily employed on the isthmus, strengthening and repairing their works.

This morning a magazine belonging to the 9th.
 enemy, on the rising ground under the *Queen's Chair*, took fire, consisting of ready prepared shells: there was a great explosion, and it is computed near five thousand shells were destroyed, besides many lives lost. It is incredible to believe the joy and transport exhibited by the *British* soldiery, while death mingled with the enemy.

This morning a boat, under flag of truce, 11th.
 came over from *Algaciras*, to inquire the cause of our firing at a neutral vessel yesterday. It is currently reported, that the General returned a *British* answer, "*That they must either keep out of the reach of his guns, or bring to, if required.*" The enemy made another sea-attack with their gun and mortar-boats, but received a smart repulse. I believe they did not relish our play, as we gave them a plentiful distribution of shells, which burst over their heads. Not any damage done on shore.

This

- 1781 This forenoon a flag of truce brought over
 June the women and children that were taken by
 13th. the enemy, in the ships that sailed from hence
 the 29th of April. They have detained the
 crews, in order that they may have the less
 opposition when they make their attack.

GARRISON ORDERS.

- 15th. *Provision from Monday next the 18th of June,
 till further orders.*

*Seven pound of Bread, four ditto of which will
 be soft, and three ditto of Biscuit ; one pound and
 half Beef, one pound Pork, twelve ounces Checse,
 six ounces Butter, quarter pint of Oil, four pints of
 Pease, and three pints of Oatmeal, per week.*

- 25th. This morning the enemy's gun and mortar-
 boats discharged about two hundred and fifty
 rounds, without effecting any other damage,
 than blowing up several huts and tents. The
 batteries, most convenient to annoy them,
 played very briskly.

- 26th. Wind E. Last night sailed a ship with se-
 veral invalids, under the care of Captain Colt,
 12th regiment, for *England*. The enemy, it
 is imagined, did not perceive her going out.

The *Neapolitan*, mentioned the first of June,
 was condemned here as a lawful prize, and
 agents are accordingly appointed until his Ma-
 jesty's pleasure is known.

GARRISON ORDERS.

- 30th. *The same quantity and species of provision, to be
 issued next month as last.*

The

The enemy keep at work—they seem to be extending a branch towards the West shore.— They continue the Siege by land with as much fury as ever. Admiral *Barcelo* occupies his old station, and views with pleasure the excursions of his gun-boats. We are very busily employed every night repairing the damages done by their shot and shells. We have not had an officer wounded this month, but several non-commissioned officers and men killed and wounded.

I am,

Dear Brother,

Affectionately yours, &c.

LETTER XXII.

Gibraltar.

DEAR BROTHER,

THE enemy continue vigorously to bombard the garrison.—They are making some additional fortifications on the isthmus, either to shelter themselves, or to annoy us in a greater degree. Their military force does not appear to have received any reinforcement.—We observe every night several detachments marching down to the lines, which we conjecture are to relieve the different guards and artillery parties.

Yesterday afternoon, about fifteen or sixteen sail of small craft arrived from the Westward at *Orange Grove*.

We

- 1781 July. We kept up a very hot fire last night upon the enemy's mill battery, chiefly small shells. Several carts, and a large body of men, having been observed passing the West angle of *St. Phillippe*, just at the close of the evening, which we apprehended were for the execution of some work on the isthmus.
- 9th. The enemy's gun and water boats came over, and discharged very briskly several rounds of shot and shells. They did not stay near their usual time, which makes us imagine they have suffered from our bursting the shells over their heads.
- 13th. Wind W. Arrived a xebec at *Algaziras*. The small craft that anchored at *Orange Grove* the 3d instant have been landing either stores or provisions ever since: this morning they removed from *Algaziras*.
Last night we had several men killed and wounded by the enemy's land-fire.
- 15th. This morning a xebec and several gallies stood to the East, two small sail having been observed there, waiting the change of the wind. It is not improbable but they are vessels with supplies, bound from *Tetuan* to the garrison.
- 17th. Wind E. The xebec and cruizers have returned, without success, to *Cabritta*, where they have anchored to keep a look out to the East.
Last night a vessel sailed from here, bound to *England* with dispatches, mentioning all is well. The enemy's land fire is very slack, only now and then a few shot in the day—at night their discharge is mostly shells.

This

This morning two galleys brought into *Algaziras* a large fettee.—*Aicki Hamet*, a *Moorish* butcher, says she is laden with cattle from *Faro*. This will be a great loss to the garrison, as we have not received any supply of fresh meat for some time, and there being very few cattle at present in the place. The fresh provision which is sold now, is pork, and that is very indifferent and scarce, being fed on the filth of the place, eight rials per pound, about three shillings and three pence sterling. 1781 July 20th.

Very little fire from the enemy, by land, these six days—they seem to be repairing our works, and we are as attentively employed upon our own.—Towards the Bay all is quiet, 23d.

The enemy have again roused.—Yesterday, and to-day they fired incessantly. Our batteries made but a trifling return; as it is almost madness to fire at their works, they being so thickly covered with sand, that our shot finds very little penetration. 28th.

The enemy continue firing, and seem determined, if possible, to batter down all their works—their gun and mortar boats again visited us, without effecting any damage. We are really in a dismal situation—between the land and sea fire, we scarce dare close our eyes. On your part you must not expect correct letters; the hurry of the times, the noise of mortars, howitzers, cannon, and the bursting of shells, render the mind so confused that it would be a task: let it suffice that I am alive; that shot and shells are my near companions; that smoke, and wounded brother-soldiers are constantly in view; that we have heavy duty, hard 30th.

1781 hard watchings, and little rest; that our com-
 July forts are groans; that our nightly repose is
 30th. turned to harrassing alarms; that our pastimes
 are destruction; that every hour, we or the
 enemy are inventing some horrid stratagem;
 and that the next we behold each other plunged
 thereby into the most excruciating anguish.

Such, dear Brother, are *Gibraltar* exhibitions;
 and perhaps while you are reading this, and feel
 a sensible pang at your heart for my situation, I
 may be performing a part in the tragical scene,
 on a stage where criticism blushes to appear.

You will think I indulge a brood of melan-
 choly reflections, but believe me, I am as cheer-
 ful as the god of mirth! Amidst camps, mar-
 tial sounds, and all the din of war, I find com-
 placency in a resignation to the will of God.
 If Death attends, I hope to receive my fate
 with a christian fortitude, and meet honour
 with expanded arms. With the fullest sense
 of brotherly affection, I subscribe myself,

Sincerely your's,

LETTER XXIII.

Gibraltar.

DEAR BROTHER,

Aug. 1. **N**OTHING material has taken place on the
 isthmus;—the enemy are very attentive
 to the Siege, and keep up a well directed
 and regular fire. We lost several men yesterday
 afternoon, by the fire from the *Black Battery*.
 Gentle

Gentle breezes at W. Last night the gun 1781
and mortar boats arranged in two separate di- Aug.
visions, briskly poured into the garrison about
two hundred rounds of shot and shells. Our
batteries, together with the *Repulse* and *Van*
Guard (which are anchored off the *New Mole*
Head) gave them a generous return. The
cannonade was so spirited, that the bay ap-
peared a blaze during the whole time.

Wind W. This morning a boat standing 3d.
for the Rock, was taken by the enemy's cruiz-
ers, and conducted over the way. We could
not give her any assistance, she being near two
leagues distance.

The enemy keep busy at work during the 5th.
intervals our fire ceases, and have greatly
strengthened their advanced approaches. From
their proceedings we are almost positive they
have other works in contemplation. On our
side we have begun forming some additional
* embrasures on the hills.

This forenoon a sail appeared in the Offing, 6th.
with little wind at W. The *Spanish* watch-
towers hung out the signal of an enemy's ap-
pearance.—Eighteen sail of gun-boats rowed
out from *Algaziras*, and when she had come
within two leagues of the garrison, it fell a
dead calm, and the enemy raked her fore and
aft, showering grape both upon her starboard
and larboard quarter. She plied her guns
briskly, and I believe would have been inevi-
tably taken, had not Captain *Curtis*, naval
commander, ordered the two gun boats, viz.
the *Van Guard* and *Repulse*, the former of six,
and the latter of five guns, to be towed by
the.

* Holes in a battery through which the cannon are pointed.

1781. the men of war's boats, towards the enemy, Aug. which they performed in a gallant and undaunted manner, notwithstanding the *Spanish* gun boats directed their fire among them—6th. When they had got within reach, the *Repulse* discharged her guns, and as soon as the *Van Guard* came up she did the same, which prevented the enemy from boarding the vessel—a xebec, cutter, and several double gallies co-operated, and poured in a heavy fire, but could not cut her off from the garrison. Her sails, we could plainly perceive, were so greatly torn with grape, that when the breeze sprang up, she could make but little way, but our boats having got a rope from her, they towed her under the walls. She proves to be the *Helena* sloop, in sixteen days from *Portsmouth*. Her main mast was shot through with a twenty-six pound ball; the boatswain was killed, and one of the crew wounded: such a warm sea engagement was never known in sight of the garrison, and we concluded that every soul on board must have been killed or wounded:—But *Britons* are ever brave, nor could the numerous swarm of cruizers the least dishearten the Captain, nor dispirit the noble crew, who were determined, rather than yield to *Spanish* power, to perish every man. When she had come near enough for the garrison to cheer (who in crowds had taken possession of the walls and heights as spectators) an incessant shouting ensued, and huzzas, that echoed from the Rock and skies.

Such instances as these must convince the enemy that the spirit of *Britons* is unparalleled, and that no superiority of power will make them

them yield. It must greatly cool their courage, and dispossess them of all hope of taking Gibraltar. 1781. Aug.

Thus *Albion's* sons defy the hostile foe—
 From shore to shore they steer with conqu'ring arms!
 With *Britain's* royal ensigns spread abroad,
 On whom the wond'ring nations gaze with pleasure,
 While *George's* enemies are struck with dread—
 Ye hectoring *Dons*, the *British* standard view,
 That bids defiance to your fleets and armies;
 Nor let ambition lead you on to woe,
 But stop! before we work your overthrow.

Wind E. Last night a sloop from *Minorca*, 10th.
 bound to the garrison with supplies, was taken
 off *Europa*, by the *Spanish* cruizers. The crew
 had just time, before she was boarded, to make
 their escape. The enemy keep a tolerable brisk
 fire, and we continue to annoy them from
 our batteries on the hill.

Last night, between eleven and twelve 16th.
 o'clock, the enemy's gun and mortar-boats
 made an attack upon the fourthward; the gar-
 rison and shipping returned the fire, but un-
 fortunately, during the action, we had the
 loss of one man killed, and three wounded.

Wind W. During the course of the night, a 17th.
 schooner got safe in from *Paro*, with sundry
 supplies. They bring an account that the ene-
 my are busy at *Cadiz*, in equipping an arma-
 ment to act against this place, and are hourly
 in expectation of being reinforced with a *French*
 squadron.

Last night, several guns were distinctly heard 19th.
 in the Gut, from nine to eleven o'clock, which
 proved

1781 proved to be the enemy in chace of the *Kite* Aug. cutter, from *Gravesend*, arrived here safe this morning. She has brought dispatches for our Governor.

23d. The enemy are diligently employed in lengthening their approaches on the isthmus. Several strong parties frequently appear, which we as regularly fire upon—From their *Black Battery*, *Forts St. Phillippe*, *Barbary*, and lines, they keep a hot and severe cannonade and bombardment—two foldiers killed this day.

28th. Last night, there being a smooth sea, the *Spanish* gun and mortar-boats came over from *Algaziras*, and fired briskly for the space of two hours and upwards. The garrison, shipping, and two advanced gun-boats or prams, made a very good return, but all ineffectual to prevent their annoyance. A shell unfortunately fell into the artillery-ward at Naval-Hospital, and killed a matrofs, who was incapable of getting out of bed, owing to having his leg and thigh broke by the enemy's fire some time past, of which he daily languished: the shell dropped by the side of his cradle, spitting forth its sulphureous venom, and in that tormenting situation, he was compelled to remain and wait the mercy of the explosion. You may judge what must be his feeling in that predicament, without friends, help, or strength to make his escape from so irresistible a foe. The inexpressible agonies he must have experienced during the short interval of life, certainly were beyond the power of utterance, or the delineations of a pen to give a just description: after having uttered a few ejaculations to heaven, the unmerciful demon burst in

in pieces, and extinguished those sparks of life 1781
that were unexpired in the wounded man. Aug.

Nothing extraordinary this month from the 30th.
land or sea; every thing is perfectly quiet in
respect to storming us. The *Spanish* batteries
continue their usual fire, both from their lines
and isthmus. We expect, every westerly wind,
to behold the grand armament appear in the
Offing from *Cadiz*, to give the decisive blow.—
General *Elliott* has made every possible arrange-
ment of ordnance, for a determined opposi-
tion; and, I hope, whenever the trial comes,
that our arms will be crowned with victorious
success.

I am,

Dear Brother,

Sincerely yours.

LETTER XXIV.

Gibraltar.

DEAR BROTHER,

DEATH and Slaughter continue to be our Sept.
visitants—on every hand impending ruin
hourly awaits. The *Spaniards* keep up their usual
fire upon us, seemingly studiously meditating
our overthrow; not only the garrison of *Gib-
raltar*, but also the island of *Minorca*, has ex-
cited their attention. From this it is evident
they are aiming at clearing the *Mediterranean*
of his Britannic Majesty's land and sea-forces,
but

1781 but it is hoped that their endeavours to effect Sept. these purposes, will fall short of the desired success.

5th. This forenoon, a *Spanish* cartel brought over the Patron of the boat taken the third of August last, from whom we learn, that the *French* have landed an army on the island of *Minorca*, with an intent to work the reduction of that place; and it is currently reported in *Spain*, that the *Duc de Crillon* had commenced a bombardment there. Several wounded invalids were embarked on ship-board by order of the Governor, on their passage for *England*, the third instant.

The enemy are very busy on the isthmus, employed at work, forwarding their labours—the tracts of several carts have been discovered on the sand, between the lines and *Mill-Battery*, so that we imagine they were carrying ordnance or materials for their batteries.

7th. Arrived from the eastward a xebec and two gallies, they have anchored on the opposite side. The enemy's fire continues. Three men were wounded this afternoon by the explosion of a shell.

12th. This morning the *Spanish* squadron was dressed out with variety of colours, and at noon the forts, lines, and *Black Battery* gave us a salute of twenty-seven guns with shot: The troops in camp were arranged in line, and fired a *feu de joye*, which they repeated three times, together with the shipping at *Algaziras*. We cannot imagine the cause of this rejoicing, as it is not one of their Saint's days.

16th. Wind E. The invalids that were embarked under the care of Lieutenant *Lowe* of the

the 12th regiment, sailed last night to the 1781
Westward. Sept.

The enemy continue a brisk cannonade—
We return the fire moderately.

Last night the *Spanish* gun and mortar-boats 18th.
stole over, and fired upwards of three hundred
rounds of shot and shells—the garrison and
shipping kept up an incessant discharge of
ordnance, but unluckily, during the action we
had four men wounded.

Some time in the course of the night, a car-
cass, fired from *Willis's*, upon the works on
the isthmus, set them on fire, which burnt
for near an hour—We took this opportunity
of making a furious cannonade, which the
enemy particularly acknowledged.

We discovered this morning a new work,
West side of *St. Carlos*, extended towards
the shore. It is not sufficiently executed to
form a judgment of the construction.

A xebec and several small craft sailed this
morning from *Algaziras* to the Eastward, where
they are observed cruizing backwards and for-
wards, in expectation of meeting some prey.

Between nine and ten o'clock last night, a 19th.
shell fired from *St. Carlos's* battery, on the isth-
mus, entered a house near *South Line-wall* guard
—Majors *Mercier* and *Vignoles* of the 39th re-
giment, and Captain *Burke* of the 58th regi-
ment (Town-Major of the garrison) were sit-
ting round a table in a room when the shell
descended with fatal destruction, which falling
on the thighs of the latter, greatly mutilated
them, and wounded the two other Majors :—
the rubbish which fell from the ceiling by the
forcible entry, extinguished the candle, and
I the

1781 the only light remaining was the igneous fuzee
 Sept. of the shell. Majors *Mercier* and *Vignoles* in
 19th. their wounded condition, instantly arose to
 escape, when taking hold of Captain *Burke*;
 they found him in a state apparently deprived
 of action or expression. Self preservation be-
 came necessary, (one minute longer delay prob-
 ably would have terminated their existence)
 they instantly retreated in pain, from the scene
 of misery, which they had scarce effected, when
 the shell burst with furious explosion, and toss-
 ed the Town-Major from the place where he
 had fallen, to another part of the room: He
 was soon after removed in a mangled and torn
 condition, which feelingly effected the soldiers,
 who carried him from that place to the Naval
 Hospital, where he soon afterwards expired,
 in the most excruciating agony.

In visiting the house in the morning, the
 walls were found shattered, besprinkled with
 his blood, and part of his flesh sticking to the
 ruins of the roof.

You will pardon me in attempting to draw
 the outlines of so worthy and deserving an
 officer.

He was bold, vigilant, enterprising, and
 well disciplined. Active and severe in his sta-
 tion, and attentive to an impartial discharge
 of the duty he owed his country, but to do
 justice to his eminent abilities, my talents are
 too inadequate, I must therefore leave it to
 some able writer, who knew his private, as
 well as public virtues. His loss will be long
 regretted by society;—by his country in gen-
 eral, and this garrison in particular.

While

While the attendants strove to bind his wounds, 1781
 He patient gaz'd around, with placid eyes, Sept.
 'Till wearied Nature sinking with her load, 19th.
 Resisted—struggled—worn out with th' encounter,
 Resign'd her charge unto the tyrant Death;
 His soul unfetter'd, unincumber'd fled,
 To the blest mansions of eternal peace.

The enemy kept up a brisk fire the whole of last night, which was as spiritedly returned by our batteries, and when the above intelligence had reached the several posts, revenge operated so powerfully, that our cannonade continued till the morning, very hot. We had several men wounded, during the night.

Sailed the *Helena* sloop, and *Kite* cutter, to the Westward.

This day, between eleven and one o'clock, a foldier was executed for theft. He died seemingly insensible of his situation.

GARRISON ORDERS.

20th.

Captain James Foulis of the 73d regiment, is appointed Town-Major, vice Major Burke deceased.

This day we had several men killed from the land-fire—the enemy continue briskly at work on the West side of *St. Carlos*.

GARRISON ORDERS.

1781

Sept. *The ration of provisions from Monday the 24th*
 21st. *inf. seven pounds of Bread, and half ditto Beef,*
one ditto Pork, six ounces Butter, twelve ditto
Cheese, (in lieu of one pound Beef) three pints of
Oatmeal, three ditto Pease, one and quarter ditto
of Wheat, in lieu of one pint Pease.

24th. Last night the enemy's gun and mortar-boats came over, and fired near three hundred rounds, but mostly shells—they did not do any considerable damage to the southward. Our prams discovered them pretty early, and made a very free return:—the firing from the garrison at them was chiefly from the *New Mole and South Bastion*—We took the advantage to fire during their stay, into their camp, from the extremity of the *Devil's Tongue*. The enemy from the land-side keep up the bombardment and cannonade, and are attentively employed at work on the isthmus, improving and advancing their lines of approach.

25th. Wind W. Arrived the *Flying Fish* cutter, from *England*. A xebec chased her under the garrison guns, and exchanged several shot with her, but could not prevent her from entering the port. During the course of the night, the merlons (that have been heightened) off *Fort-Barbara*, took fire, which occasioned the garrison to pour in a great quantity of shot and shells.

A few small vessels arrived at the *Orange-Grove*—It is likely they have brought provision for the *Spanish* camp, as their army must cause a great consumption in the province of *Andalusia*,

lusia, which at best is but poor, and badly supplied with cattle. 1781

Sept.
30th.

The enemy have not ceased firing these five days, but have kept up a regular and determined cannonade: They have not killed and wounded many, though a person would think it impossible for a bird to escape, amidst such showers of shot. On the sea-side all is quiet, nor has any shipping of force appeared, either from East or West to molest us. The enemy are very tedious in commencing the storm, and really our expectation begins to tire. They have bombarded us now near six months, and General *Alvarez* is as far from taking possession of the garrison as he was at first, although they have discharged from their batteries, according to the nearest calculation, between thirty and forty thousand rounds of shot and shells. He may view the rock with his perspective, from the camp of *St. Roque*, but if he wishes to examine the workmanship of the walls, and the strength of the fortification, he must come much nearer, or return without the gratification of his curiosity.

I remain,

Dear Brother,

Affectionately Yours.

LETTER

LETTER XXV.

Gibraltar.

DEAR BROTHER,

1781
Oct. 5. **E**VERY thing remains much in the same situation as when I finished my last letter. Admiral *Barcello* and his squadron occupy the port of *Algaziras*, from whence now and then a xebec or galley will occasionally push out, merely to command respect. We have not observed a signal on the *Spanish* towers at *Cabritta* a long time, but we expect, whenever the naval power sails from *Cadiz* harbour, it will be immediately noised along the coast. The soldiery appear impatient for the grand attack, and attentively watch the variation of the wind, as a westerly breeze only will waft their armament to the place of action.

7th. Very little wind at W. Last night the gun and mortar-boats came over, and fired excessive brisk upon the southward: the garrison and shipping returned the same, but the enemy did not do any damage on shore. We fired several shells into their camp from *Old Mole-Head*. The enemy keep working on the isthmus, and maintain the land cannonade with fury.

10th. This day the enemy fired upon us with great warmth, which was freely returned by the batteries upon the hill. Unfortunately during the time, a shell, which burst, killed Ensign *Stevens* of the 39th regiment—Several men were wounded by the splinters of shells.

The

The *Flying Fish* cutter, which arrived here 17th the 25th of September, failed, unperceived by Oct. the enemy.

Wind E. This day the enemy's line of bat- 11th. tle ships failed to the westward. From this circumstance, we conclude that the fleet equipping at *Cadiz* is destined to act against some other place, or there could not be any necessity to remove those ships from their station. On the land-side the enemy keep up the fire, and this day it is reported an additional mortar was mounted in *St. Carlos*. We fired very hot on their advanced works.

The enemy, yesterday afternoon, had some 17th. artillery-practice in their camp, but we could not particularly make out the meaning, as we only observed some smoke, and heard the report of the ordnance. On the isthmus several working parties continue their labours, which the batteries unremittingly fire upon.

This day a hot cannonade was kept up on 20th. both sides for many hours—Lieutenant *Tinlin*, Assistant-Engineer, and four soldiers, were wounded thereby. Our fire apparently put the enemy frequently in confusion, as several men were seen carrying on bearers along the shore toward their camp.

This day there was a general change of 21st. quarters with the soldiery—those regiments quartered in town marched and took possession of the southward encampments, and the others marched for the town-district. Arrived a xebec from the West at *Algaziras*. The enemy as usual keep up the fire.

This morning we discovered the enemy had 22d finished a battery of six embrasures from *Mill-Tower*,

1781 *Tower*, towards the West strand; which they Oct. began on the 18th September. It faces the *Old Mole* and *Water-Port*, and is constructed on purpose for the annoyance of those posts. We fired very warm upon it from *Montague's* bastion, and the upper batteries.

23d. Last night two foldiers deserted from us to the enemy; they cannot carry any intelligence that will prove prejudicial to the welfare of the garrison.

About two this afternoon, a great firing was heard in the Gut—the *Spanish* towers had a red flag hoisted, and several gallies pushed from *Algaziras* to the westward.—We fear some unfortunate vessel, destined for this place, has fallen into the enemy's clutches.

24th. This day we had the pleasure to set the enemy's new work on fire, by howitzer-shells from *Montague's* bastion, which occasioned the enemy to redouble their cannonade from their forts and lines. With much difficulty, danger, and loss, they got the fire extinguished; on our side we had some few wounded.

25th. Last night the enemy covered the embrasures of their new battery with sand and fascines; from this it is evident that the platforms for the cannon are not laid; it will therefore be some days before they can have them mounted for action. We give them a plentiful discharge of small shells, which must prove very disadvantageous to them in their proceedings.

A report is now received from the batteries, that a *Spanish* officer (as they could plainly perceive his uniform) was knocked off the *Mill Battery* as he was standing upon the glacis, taking an observation of our works. There is not

not any doubt but he was an engineer, which 1781
will be a loss to the enemy, as they have some Oct.
of the most celebrated for fortification now in
their service.

A heavy fire all night from the *Black Battery*, 26th.
forts, and lines. This day, Lieutenant *Vicars*,
of the 56th regiment, received a wound. The
Spanish galleys that sailed to the west the 23d.
instant, have returned to their old station.

Wind W. About eleven this forenoon a sail 30th.
appeared standing for the Bay. Two *Spanish*
cruizers under *Ape's Hill* fired a signal gun,
upon which eleven gun-boats sallied out from
Algaziras. When they came up with her, she
opened her ports, and discharged several rounds
of grape, and continued firing till she came
pretty near *Europa*, where the enemy boarded
her, and carried her off in triumph. She was
an *English* cutter, and fought well, nor accord-
ing to opinion, would she have been captured
had not the wind dropped. The enemy kept
up a spirited fire from the land side.

Last night arrived, with a fresh breeze at 31st.
West, the *Unicorn* cutter, and four other ves-
sels, from *Faro*, laden with fruit and poultry,
a very seasonable and excellent supply, as the
garrison are very much necessitated for vegeta-
bles, fruit, and fresh diet. The *New Mole*
wharf, this morning, was quite crowded, every
one being anxious to buy something, although
the articles sold at an exorbitant rate: onions
sold for six rials per pound (two shillings and
five pence farthing) oranges and lemons one
rial eight quarts each (seven pence halfpenny
sterling) the poultry at the usual prices, viz.
three dollars and an half for a hen. Common
green

1781 green tea, brought by the *Unicorn*, sold for
 Oct. fourteen dollars per pound (two pounds five
 31st. shillings and sixpence) and a loaf of sugar five
 dollars, nearly seventeen shillings per pound.
 This is rare traffic! We hope these times will
 not last long, and a communication will be
 opened, so that supplies may be brought in and
 sold at a moderate price; or, should they con-
 tinue, the garrison will, of course, be exhaust-
 ed of all cash in a short time.

The enemy keep up a constant fire—Their
 works on the isthmus are going forward, and
 their naval and military force remains just the
 same.

This month is finished without any great ex-
 ploits, or coming to close quarters.

I am,

Dear Brother,

Affectionately yours,

LETTER XXVI.

Gibraltar.

DEAR BROTHER,

Nov. 3 **T**HREE days more elapsed without any
 particular circumstance intervening, nor
 has the enemy appeared to be so attentive to
 their labours. The siege is continued by our
 opponents, who adopt every measure to dis-
 tress us, notwithstanding which, the *British*
 troops apparently disregard the threatening foe,
 who

who thunder forth their vengeance every 1781
hour. Nov.

The soldiery are very much afflicted with the scurvy, owing to the salt diet, and some of them so bad that they have lost the entire use of their limbs, and represent the picture of decrepid old age. Our Governor has humanely ordered the director of the hospital, to serve out daily to the surgeons of the several corps, one pound of onions for every ten men, and two lemons or oranges for every man in the scurvy. This, it is hoped, will contribute greatly to their cure.

The gun and mortar boats came over, and 4th.
discharged all their ammunition upon the garrison, while the land batteries took part in the cannonade. An incessant fire on every side continued for upwards of two hours, during which time Ensign *Edgar* of the 56th, and Lieutenant *John Frazer* of the 73d regiments, were wounded—the latter lost a leg by a shot from the *Black Battery*; several soldiers also were wounded.

Nine settees came from the West, and anchored at the *Orange Grove*—We suppose them to be market boats.

Yesterday we fired from the garrison at a 9th.
Danish dogger, that came nearly under the guns, but could not make her stand in. On the land side the enemy fired excessively warm, which was answered from *Willis's* and the upper batteries. This morning we discovered that the enemy had erected another battery on the isthmus, seemingly fronting our lines—They are determined to have a sufficient number of pieces of ordnance mounted for battering our walls. Wind

- 1781 Wind W. Arrived at *New Mole* the *Phoenix* ordnance cutter, with Brigadier-General
 Nov. *Ross*, passenger. She had a brush with a cruizer
 13th. at the entrance of the Bay, but not of any
 consequence—Her intelligence is kept very se-
 cret.

This forenoon a cutter from the westward was chased by a frigate and three gallees, but before she could reach the garrison she was becalmed and boarded: She plied her guns in a spirited manner, but the superiority of power obliged her to yield. The enemy brought her into *Algaziras*, under her ensign reversed.

A very heavy fire from the land batteries, directed towards the hill and town, during which we had the loss of two men killed, and three wounded.

- 14th. A brisk fire from the lines and forts.—The enemy worked very hard last night on the isthmus, and completed the battery they began on the 9th inst. We fired several thirteen inch shells upon them this morning.
- 16th. This day a shell, fired from *St. Carlos*, fell near *George Picardo's* vineyard, where it burst, but did not do any damage. A splinter of another, which exploded in the air, struck the south end of the naval hospital, which is near four thousand yards; a most incredible distance for pieces of ordnance to reach. The enemy fired very brisk upon our works from all the ordnance they have mounted; they did much damage to *Willis's Battery*, and wounded Lieutenant *Evans*, an assistant engineer, though not dangerously.

The

The enemy continue their long-range shells upon the southward, which is of great annoyance. Last night a shell fell under the platform of a tent where two corporals were asleep, when the intolerable fume and stench of the burning composition awakened them, nor could they imagine from whence the smoke proceeded. The shell entered under the boards, when they opened the tent door to let in the air, to prevent being suffocated, at that instant it exploded and blew them some yards, without receiving any injury; they shortly recovered from their surprize, and turned their eyes to the place where the tent had stood, but the tent and tent-poles, &c. could not be seen, they being torn to pieces, and scattered in many places. In this naked situation they began a search for their wearing apparel, but only found the cuff of a coat in one place, part of a sleeve in another, and their shoes parched to a cinder. Thus forlorn they began to console each other, when Corporal *R-b-ds-n* exclaimed, *D—n it, I don't care for the loss of my clothes, but all my money is gone!*

You probably will imagine, that a man who had so fortunately escaped such imminent danger, would have been thankful to the all-ruling Power for his preservation, and not instantaneously lament his pecuniary loss; but the besieged have been so long inured to the casualties of battle, that its effect is little regarded. Should death be constantly held in view, it might somewhat tend to dispossess the soldier of that spirit of heroism, so necessary for the business of fighting.

Came

1781 Came in two deserters from the enemy's
 Nov. *Walloon Guards*, one of them is a corporal, and
 21. seems to be an intelligent man. He says there
 are twenty-one thousand men in the camp,
 waiting the arrival of the naval power, to storm
 this place: he has given the General a clear
 and exact description of the works on the isth-
 mus, and the construction of *St. Carlos*, toge-
 ther with an account of the strength of their
 guards and working parties, that are employed
 daily.

The enemy continue to throw their long
 rangers.* Last night a shell fell at the door
 of the barrack on the *Mole Parade*, where it
 exploded; forced the door open, and broke all
 the windows. The hand of Providence was vi-
 sible in the discharge of this shell, for, had it
 been a yard more to the left, it must have
 fallen into the barracks, where two companies
 of soldiers are quartered.

23d. The long rangers still visit the South. One
 fell in Colonel *Cochrane's* quarters on *Scud-hill*,
 but did not do any damage: another near the
 magazine on the *Mole Parade*, and several into
 the *Mole Yard*, and within the boom. We
 keep a constant fire upon their works, but
 they are so well intrenched, that we cannot
 silence them.

26th. The enemy keep rattling away with guns
 and mortars, and seemingly take a pleasure in
 reaching the southward. Several shells have
 fallen this forenoon about *South Shed*, and
Princess of Wales's lines: they cannot reach fur-
 ther

* A phrase made use of by the soldiery, for the incre-
 dible length the enemy throw their shells.

ther only when there is a strong northerly 1781
wind, which forces the shell with a greater ve- Nov.
locity. We fired several times at their work-
ing parties on the isthmus.

This evening, the garrison were highly delighted with the general orders. It is whispered, that the information given by the corporal that came in the 21st instant, has induced the Governor to make a trial of *British* valour.

EVENING GARRISON ORDERS.

All the grenadiers and light-infantry, and all the men of the 12th, and Hardenberg's regiments, officers and non-commissioned officers, now on duty, to be immediately called in and join their regiments, to form a detachment, consisting of the 12th and Hardenberg's regiments, compleat—The grenadiers and light companies of all the other regiments (who are to be compleated to their full establishment from the battalion companies) one captain, three lieutenants, ten non-commissioned officers, and one hundred artillery, three engineers, seven officers overseers, twelve non-commissioned overseers, and one hundred and sixty workmen from the line, excepting from the 12th and Hardenberg's regiments, and forty workmen from the artificer company—Each man to carry thirty-nine rounds or more, a good flint in his piece, and another in his pocket—No drums, except two with the 12th, and two with Hardenberg's—No swords—The whole to assemble on the Red Sands at twelve o'clock this night—The wine houses to be shut up at six o'clock, and all the soldiers to repair to their quarters—Brigadier Ross to command the detachment—No volunteers will be allowed—Lieutenant-Colonels Dackenhausen, Hugo, Trigge, and Major

1781 *Major Maxwell, to meet the Governor at the Field Nov. Officers room, at the South, as soon as possible.*
 26th. *The troops intended for the Sortee to be formed as follows :*

Right. Lieutenant-Colonel *Hugo*, Grenadiers of *Redens* and *La Mott's*, Workmen, Artillery, *Hardenberg's* Regiment, Light Company 56th Regiment.

Centre. Lieutenant-Colonel *Dackenhausen*, Grenadiers and Light Company 39th and 73d Regiments, Workmen, Artillery, Grenadiers of the 56th and 58th Regiments, Major *Maxwell*.

Left. Lieutenant-Colonel *Trigge*, Grenadiers and Light Infantry 72d Regiment, Seamen, Artillery, 12th Regiment, Light Company 58th Regiment.

27th. This morning at two o'clock, the detachment of officers, non-commissioned officers and men, under the command of Brigadier-General *Ross*, marched from the *Red Sands*, where they had assembled, through *Bay-side* and *Lower Forbes's*, to storm the enemy's advanced works—The word *steady* was the counterfigh. The *Spanish* centinels, posted in the Gardens, soon discovered the *English* troops advancing, upon which they fired their muskets to spread the alarm, and then retreated to *St. Carlos*. The *British* army, in a spirited and intrepid manner, rushed on, and, after some opposition, gained possession of the *Spanish* works, which struck such a panic to the enemy, that the greatest part stationed to defend the place fled with consternation to the lines,

lines, to make a position of defence, not apprehending so unexpected a visit, while the others fell from the fire of our musquetry. The business now commenced, the workmen and seamen began with their tomahawks,* devils §, and warlike combustibles, to set the batteries on fire, while the artillery spiked up ten mortars, and eighteen pieces of cannon, during which one of the former happened to go off, and sent a shell to the southward; in a few minutes the isthmus appeared an entire blaze, from the fire of their consuming batteries, and the reflection of the light was so great, that a person could have read upon our batteries. Thus successful, the whole body gave three huzzas, which consequently must sensibly aggravate and vex the foe. We kept up a hot cannonade from the garrison, upon their two forts and *Barrier-gate*, to cover our men, and prevent their falling out. A regiment of horse appeared near *Fort-Barbary*, but after they had made several feints to come on, they thought prudent to retire. The enemy fired upon the detachment with round and grape, but their cannon, for want of being sufficiently depressed, had not the desired effect, as most of the shot flew over our people's heads. Our gallant and veteran Governor, accompanied by Captain *Curtis*, went out to be an eye-witness of the transaction; and when the business was fully accomplished, he smilingly said to Captain *Curtis*, "*How beautiful the*

K

Rock

* Small hatchets, having a sharp point on the back.

§ An inflammable composition bound in small bundles, which, after the bands of the fascines are cut, are stuck in between the openings.

1781 *Rock appears by the light of the glorious fire."* An
 Nov. officer and several *Spanish* soldiers were put to
 27th. the sword: an artillery officer was made prisoner attempting to escape with the keys of the powder magazines, which were immediately opened, to give the fire of the batteries a communication to the ammunition; after which the keys were delivered to our Governor on the isthmus, by Captain *Whetham*, of the Royal Artillery.

The detachment having done all that men could do, retreated to the garrison with the satisfaction of destroying, in fifteen minutes, a work estimated at three million of dollars, bringing with them prisoners, one sub-lieutenant of Walloon Guards, (Baron *Helmstat*) one sub-lieutenant of Artillery, and ten Men: with the small loss on our side of four men killed, one officer, (Lieutenant *Tweedie* of the 12th Foot, who received a grape-shot in his thigh) two serjeants and twenty-two men wounded, and one man missing. The enemy had only recovered their surprize, and beat to arms, when the detachment was repassing off *Landport-gate*, so that you will say we were expeditious in destruction. Several of the *Spanish* powder magazines blew up after the retreat of the *British* troops.

The General expressed the greatest approbation of the officers and men, which you will perceive by the following

GARRISON ORDERS.

The bravery and conduct of the whole detachment, officers, seamen, and soldiers, on this glorious occasion, surpasses the Governor's utmost acknowledgments.

STATE

**STRENGTH OF THE DETACHMENT
THAT MADE THE SORTEE.**

		Rank and File.	Drummers.	Non-committ. Officers.	Officers.
RIGHT.					
Lt. Colonel	<i>Reden's Grenadiers.</i>	71	0	7	5
<i>Hugo.</i>	<i>La Mott's ditto.</i>	71	0	7	3
	<i>Workmen & Artillery</i>	50	0	4	5
	<i>Hardenberg's Regt.</i>	296	2	34	16
	<i>56th Light Infantry.</i>	57	0	3	3
CENTRE.					
Lt. Col. <i>Dackenhausen,</i>	<i>39th Grenadiers. - -</i>	57	0	3	3
<i>Major Maxwell.</i>	<i>39th Light Infantry.</i>	57	0	3	3
	<i>Workmen & Artillery</i>	150	0	8	6
	<i>73d Grenadiers. - -</i>	101	0	5	4
	<i>73d Light Infantry. -</i>	101	0	5	4
	<i>56th Grenadiers. - -</i>	57	0	3	3
	<i>58th ditto. - - -</i>	57	0	3	3
LEFT.					
Lieut. Col. <i>Trigge.</i>	<i>72d Grenadiers. - -</i>	101	0	5	4
	<i>72d Light Infantry. -</i>	101	0	5	4
	<i>Seamen. - - - -</i>	100	0	10	3
	<i>12th Regiment. - -</i>	430	2	28	26
	<i>58th Light Infantry.</i>	57	0	3	3
	Total	1914	4	136	68

STATE of the GARRISON at the time of the SORTEE.

	Rank and File.	Drummers and Fifers	Serjeants.	Mates.	Surgeons.	Quar. Matters.	Adjutants.	Chaplains.	Ensigns.	Lieutenants.	Captains.	Majors.	Lt. Colonels.	Colonels.
Detachment composed the SORTEE.	41914	6	136	2	0	0	3	0	14	58	326	3	1	1
Sick and wounded.	557	28	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
Remained.	1792531	277	914	0	8	7	3	3	7331	7331	545	5	5	5
Total of the Garrison.	441	1895002	916	8	310	3	10	46	132	132	872	8	6	6

N. B. Brevet Majors are included as Captains; non-commissioned officers of Artillery as Serjeants. Forty-one Drummers, and fifty-one privates, of what remained in the Garrison were boys.

C A S U A L S

in the different Corps in before-men-
tioned *Sortee*.

C O R P S.	KILLED.				WOUNDED.			
	Officers.	Sergeants.	Drummers.	Rank and File.	Officers.	Sergeants.	Drummers.	Missing.
R. Artillery.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1 0
12th Regt.	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1 0
39th. —	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0 0
56th. —	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0 0
58th. —	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0 0
72d. —	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1 0
73d. —	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2 0
Hardenberg's	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	1 1 0
Reden's —	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0 1
La Mott's —	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0 0
Artificer camp.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1 0
Seamen.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5 0
Total	0	0	0	4	1	2	0	22 1

1781 The enemy's works burnt very furiously all Nov. yesterday afternoon and night; and are still 28th. on fire. They last night fired very warm, with grape shot, on the isthmus, supposing we were again advancing, until a shell discharged from the upper batteries on *St. Carlos* convinced them that we had not any men there. A large body of men yesterday evening marched from their camp to the lines, to reinforce the different posts, apprehending we should pay them a visit in that quarter.

GARRISON ORDERS.

The Adjutant-General having laid before the Governor the following note from Brigadier-General Ros, he is pleased to direct that the same shall be inserted in the orders of the day.

Brigadier Ros begs of the Adjutant-General, that he would mention to the Governor his most humble request, that his Excellency would be pleased to accept of the Brigadier's warmest acknowledgment of the great honor conferred on him, by commanding the detachment that formed the Sortee. To the Officers, and every one of whom, he would wish to make the most public avowal of their firm good behaviour on the occasion.

30th. The enemy yesterday and to-day have been viewing the ashes of their late works, and with penitential tears, moaning their irretrievable loss, and endless disgrace. We keep up a smart fire at present, and it is asserted, that it will be continued, to prevent the enemy from repairing the damage their batteries have received. General *Alvarez*, there is not any doubt

doubt, will study mischief in retaliation, and exert all his intellectual faculties in the promotion of plans, projects, stratagems, and inventions, to gain revenge; but while success smiles upon our arms, and glory sounds from shore to shore, the transporting melody inspires with desperate animation, and invigorates the warrior's zeal to such a degree, that fleets, armies, camps, garrisons, forts, batteries, and intrenchments, with all the hostile pomp and threatnings of the foe, are disregarded, and stamped with contempt.

I am,

Dear Brother,

With the greatest affection,

Yours, &c.

L E T T E R · XXIV.

Gibraltar.

DEAR BROTHER,

THE enemy have not begun repairing their late approaches, but seemingly intend it, as several parties unarmed frequently make their appearance. They return a spirited fire from their lines and forts, but their isthmus bombardment, *alas! is over.*

Wind W. S. W. Three men of war, conveying twenty-one sail of merchantmen passed through

1781 through from the Westward. About thirty Dec. fail to the Eastward attempting also to pass to the Westward, but were forced to put back.—

It is conjectured they are both *French* convoys.

7th. Wind S. W. This day an *English* cutter was captured by the enemy's gun boats, after an hour's spirited fire on both sides. She crowded all the sail she possibly could, but the wind having dropped almost to a calm, the garrison and shipping were incapable of assisting her.

9th. Wind E. This forenoon two frigates (one *French* and one *Spanish*) arrived from the Eastward at *Algaziras*; and this afternoon about a dozen large settees arrived at the *Orange Grove*. The enemy have done nothing particular on the isthmus.

11th. This morning we perceived the *Spaniards* had begun repairing the ruins of *St. Carlos*, and that several parties were busily employed. We accordingly discharged a considerable quantity of grape shot and small shells upon them, which made them desist from their labour.

A small sloop was this forenoon taken off *Tarifa*, by a galley and three gun boats. It is likely that she was bound for this place.

13th. Wind N. E. Last night failed the *Unicorn*, cutter, for *England*, the breeze being very stiff, supposed she got through the gut.

14th. The *Phoenix* cutter, yesterday morning slipped out of *New Mole*, and proceeded on her passage to *England*. The breeze was favourable from the East. The enemy have not detached any cruizers to the Westward, probably they consider these two cutters not worth the pursuit.

The

The *Spaniards* occasionally labour at repairing their works. but when they observe the flash of our ordnance, they immediately get under cover, but we endeavour to annoy them with our small shells, which drop into their works, and then burst: these consequently must be fatal to them, as their traverses were all consumed together with the gabions and fascines of all their advanced works. The *Spaniards* continue their usual fire both by day and night.

Wind W. During the course of the night, two vessels arrived with supplies of butter, potatoes, and beef, from *Portsmouth*, having had a passage of twenty days. They bring intelligence, that the day before they left *Faro*, they heard the accounts of the victorious sally from the garrison, papers having been received there upon the interesting subject.

Several bundles of fascines were brought from the lines to the isthmus last night, and the sand thrown up in many places. The enemy apparently have forgot their defeat, and that they ever had erected advanced works; or surely the recollection would prevent them from any further attempts to construct others in their place.

Last night, it being a brisk *Levanter*, Major General *Ross* (appointed to that rank by His Majesty's command, and declared in the Garrison orders of yesterday) sailed from hence on his passage to *Portugal*, from whence he will take shipping for *England*, where there is not the least doubt but he will be received with eclat; and every mark of approbation,

from

1781 from a grateful nation, for his bravery and Dec. singular service, on the 27th of last *November*.

21st. The *Spaniards* are very busy on the isthmus, and have repaired a great part of the ruins of their late works :—They seem determined on their re-construction, notwithstanding our heavy and spirited fire from *Willis's* and the upper batteries. The *Black Battery* and *Fort St. Philippe* kept up an incessant cannonade all this morning upon the garrison.

23d. Wind E. Arrived a frigate, sloop, cutter, and several xebecs from the eastward, and anchored between *Orange-Grove* and *Algaziras*. A fettee was taken off *Ccuta* point, by a galley, and carried in there.

24th. Wind W. N. W. Passed by a convoy of neutrals, in all about 30 sail.—The enemy hoisted a signal at *Cabritta*, not knowing who they were, upon which a xebec went out and spoke to them.

29th. This morning early, died in the naval hospital, Baron *Helmstat*, taken prisoner at *St Carlos*, on the 27th last month, and who since had a leg amputated, owing to a wound he received by a musquet-ball in that action. The corps was dressed in full uniform, according to the *Spanish* custom, and the General and principal officers, walked in solemn procession to the *New-Mole*, where a flag of truce waited to convey the body to the *Orange-Grove*: A band of music playing a dirge, and a company of grenadiers, escorted the decorated bier to the water's edge, and upon the corpse being lowered into the boat, the latter fired three volleys in honor of the deceased. The coffin had all that art and ingenuity could invent, to render it elegant,

gant, which must sensibly please the enemy, 1781
 when they consider the respect paid by the Dec.
 Governor to this fallen officer. He was young, 29th.
 handsome, and on the point of nuptial celebra-
 tion with a young lady, born in the province
 of *Andalusia*, and who, during his sickness,
 had furnished him (by flags of truce) with
 wine and other refreshing diet, which this gar-
 rison could not afford; but the day before his
 decease, she came half way over, (hearing of
 his dangerous situation) to visit him, and take
 her last adieu! but the Adjutant-General, who
 went to receive the flag of truce, assured her,
 she could not be permitted to land until the
 Governor's pleasure was known, and that the
 next day he would wait upon her with his Ex-
 cellency's command; instead of which, she
 received the lifeless trunk of him on whom
 her every wish and happiness was founded.

The enemy are diligently repairing the 30th.
 works on the isthmus,—a shell fired from
Willis's, this day, fell among a party of their
 workmen, about 50 or 60 in number, which
 we have the greatest reason to believe did con-
 siderable mischief. The *Spanish* forts and lines
 continue the cannonade and bombardment.—
 One soldier killed and two wounded this day,
 by the explosion of a shell.

A brisk fire on both sides continues, and 31st.
 the enemy keep constantly at work.—A strong
 party are employed near the *Centre-stone Guard*
House, erecting a battery. The naval force
 remains quiet, nor have we been troubled
 with the gun and mortar-boats some time
 past.

This

1781 Dec. This year has finished without giving the decisive stroke, though it has been successful on our part, and crowned our arms with glory and conquest.

I remain,

Dear Brother,

Affectionately Yours.

LETTER XXVIII.

Gibraltar.

DEAR BROTHER,

1782 Jan. 1. **A**S all my letters are intended for your information, I shall endeavour, as far as I am able, to give you a description of this envied and battered Rock, which has excited the whole attention of *Spain* and *France*.

GIBRALTAR is in 36 degrees 7 minutes north latitude, it projects into the sea, and is in length near a league from north to south; in breadth irregular from half to three quarters of a mile; its head is frequently hid in the clouds. The summit of the Rock is about 1400 feet perpendicular above the sea. It is joined to the continent by a neck of low and deep sand of the same breadth as the Rock itself, but which widens considerably towards the *Spanish* lines. This isthmus is near a league in length, and, with the opposite coast, forms a noble and safe bay eight miles over.

The

The hill is of such an irregular form, that 1782
 when you are near it you cannot view the Jan. 1.
 whole from any one part. Its head clearly
 faces the East, from thence to the *Moorish Castle*
 it fronts the north forward as far as the
Signal House, the North-west, it then takes a
 turn and continues to *Europa Point* due South.
 On account of this oblique situation, when
 you approach the town from the inundation,
 you can see no farther of the Rock than the
Moorish Castle, and even in town your sight is
 bounded by the old *Moorish Wall* [called by
 some *Charles the Fifth's*] After you have
 passed *Southport Gate*, and got upon the red
 sands, the town is hid from you, and all the
 hill to the North of the *Signal House*. The
 back of the hill is scalped and inaccessible, and
 this particular circumstance forms its chief
 strength. The head of the Rock is almost
 perpendicular, and composed of white stone
 which is burnt for lime. The batteries facing
 the isthmus are very strong and snug, which are
 carried on from the summit of the Rock, to
 the water's edge at the *Old Mole*, the extremi-
 ty of which the *Spaniards* term *Una Bocca de*
Fuego. The remains of the *Moorish Castle* are
 close to the batteries, at which place is the en-
 trance into the lines; above the lines is *Willis's*
 and the upper batteries. Under the castle are
 two batteries, near *Croubett's* house and gar-
 dens, lower down, and almost level with the
 water, is the *Grand Battery*, under which is
Landport. Above the ruins of the town ap-
 pear the walls of the army hospital, from
 which you have a view of the remains of
Bethlehem barrack, formerly a nunnery, the
White

1782 *White Cloisters* where the commissioners of the Jan. 1. navy used to reside, formerly a monastery, and *St. Francis* where the Governor resides : The building, before the enemy fired, was plain, more convenient than elegant, but pleasantly situated near the bay, with a garden adjoining. The *British* church is adjacent to this building, but now divine service is performed on the *South Parade*, on account of the enemy's cannonade. The *Spanish* church for the performance of the Roman Catholic Religion was near the *Grand Parade* in the *Green Market*, the walls of which are yet standing. The inhabitants and soldiers repair to church by the beat of a drum. Near *Southport* stands the King's yard Grand store, and Victualling-office, which, notwithstanding the enemy's bombardment, has not suffered any considerable injury. Above *Southport*, on the outside of the gate is the citadel. The garrison is bounded by strong walls, and several well-executed batteries, particularly the *King's*, *South*, *Montague's Bastion*, and *Grand Battery*. The *King's Bastion* is able to contain one thousand men, being bomb proof, and is of a noble construction, planned by General *Boyd*, when Governor of the garrison.

The entrance to the garrison from the isthmus, is so narrow, that it is impossible to march an army more than six men abreast; and which passage is undermined,* so that, if necessity should require it to be charged with barrels of

* A mine is a hole dug, to be filled with powder to blow it up, but this is built with brick, and arched over, so that the explosion would be the greater.

of powder, and sprung, the besiegers would suffer considerably, and be thrown into the greatest confusion. There are several pieces of cannon directed upon this path, loaded with grape-shot, which would scour the whole length, and cut off the assailants as fast as they advanced. The cannon placed at the *Old Mole-Head*, being level with the water, would sweep the whole isthmus; besides other pieces of ordnance placed in advantageous situations for the purpose of flanking.*

The principal buildings to the southward are, the *Naval Hospital*, now occupied by the sick soldiery and seamen; the *Barracks* for the troops, and two *Pavilions* for Officers; they are chiefly built of stone, and well suited for convenience; the rooms are large and airy, and have a handsome appearance from the Bay.

Near the *New Mole* are two magazines for powder, where it is lodged when landed from the ships, and as it is wanted, removed from thence to the *Grand Magazine* in the *Moorish Castle*. Near them is a pleasant vineyard, of a small length, which yields a great quantity of vegetables, but not sufficient to supply a sixteenth part of the garrison. It is supposed that the owner clears five thousand dollars per annum by it.—There are several houses on the heights that have been built by the officers and inhabitants, which command a delightful prospect of the Bay and the Gut; in short, most of the southward is covered with small and convenient dwellings.

The

* In military affairs, is the side of an army or battalion.

1782 The garrison is abundantly supplied with
 Jan. 1. water from the rain which descends from the heights of the Rock, through a body of sand and lime-stone, into a reservoir ; this contains the annual supply till the next rainy season, which is towards the latter end of the year.— The shipping are supplied from this reservoir, by the means of pipes, which communicate near the sea, where there is a small cistern with spouts. The Faculty agree in opinion that it is good wholesome water.

The following is the STATE of the STRENGTH of the several CORPS now here.

CORPS.	Strength.	CORPS.	Strength.
Royal Artillery	480	73d. - -	811
12th. -	469	Hardenberg's	345
39th. -	448	Reden's -	347
56th. -	450	La Mott's -	356
58th. -	450	Artificer's Comp.	89
72d. -	811		
		Total	5056

4th. Wind East. This morning early the *St. Philip's Castle* arrived here from *Mabon* with dispatches, having twenty-two *Spanish* prisoners on board, taken by the *English* in a sally made from that place. They say that General *Murray* is very closely besieged, and that the forces under his command, make the most stubborn opposition against both the *French* and *Spanish* troops who lay before the Castle.

The enemy on the isthmus keep repairing their works, and have got a great part rebuilt.

The

The fire on each side briskly continues, but 1782
most spirited from the close of the evening un- Jan.
til the dawn of the morning, as the chief part
of their labours are executed during the night-
season.

A xebec arrived from the eastward this 8th.
forenoon, and anchored opposite *Sandy Bay*.—
The working-parties on the isthmus have not
done any thing particular since the 4th inst.

Last night the *St. Philip's Castle* failed to the 10th.
eastward, and a small boat for *Tetuan*, in order
to fetch supplies. All quiet in the Bay : We
cannot imagine the reason that the enemy are
not so alert and attentive as they were.

Wind E. Sailed the *Henry* and *Mercury* pri- 13th.
vateers to the west. None of the *Spanish* cruiz-
ers went in chace of them. The enemy threw
up a branch of sand-work last night upon the
isthmus.

This day two cutters made their appearance 16th.
in the Gut. Wind N. E. The tower at *Cabrita*
let fly a signal, upon which the *Spanish* squa-
dron got in motion, consisting of a frigate,
one large xebec, one smaller ditto, several
gun-boats, and stood across to intercept them.
The gun-boats got a-head, and discharged se-
veral shot at them, which the cutters return-
ed, and kept their course, standing for the
eastward, it being impracticable to work the
port, as the wind blew right against them.
The *Spanish* cruizers went in chace, and are
now all out of sight. The works on the isth-
mus are going forward.

Antonio Juanico, a *Minorquen*, who arrived 17th.
here in a settee some time past, is convicted of
having come for the purpose of procuring in-
telligence

L

1782 intelligence for the *Spanish* General, and ordered Jan. for execution on the 4th of February ensuing.

18th. The enemy fire upon us with great fury, to prevent our annoying their working parties. Several wounded this afternoon.

20th. The town and fourthward regiments exchanged quarters this morning, to continue three months before another exchange takes place, unless circumstances should make it necessary.

23d. The isthmus parties are laboriously employed in forwarding their works, and an incessant fire is kept up from the *Spanish* lines and forts, upon our works and parties on the hill, as we are repairing the breaches made, and constructing some additional fortification to shelter our men, and to destroy, if possible, the enemy's approaches.

26th. Pleasant wheather. The enemy appear to be busy at *Algaziras*, and in the rivers. We imagine they are constructing additional gunboats there, to co-operate with those they already have. Isthmus working parties continue nightly to be employed.

29th. Wind S. E. The two cutters chased to the eastward by the enemy on the 16th instant, arrived early this morning: they prove to be the *Viper* and *Lively*, laden with ordnance stores; also arrived the *Dartmouth Tartar* cutter, last from *Lisbon* in three days, with dispatches. A frigate, xebec, and some gunboats have returned from their vain pursuit in chase of the *Viper* and *Lively*, mortified with having missed their eager prey, and anchored at their old station, watching every sail that appears in sight. The enemy are preparing several
veral

veral fire-ships at the mouth of the rivers between *Algaziras* and *Orange Grove*, but for Jan. 1782 what purpose we really cannot conjecture, 29th. without it is for pastime, and the recreation of their naval and land-forces, by reminding them that they are inclinable to do mischief, though incapable of effecting it. Our shipping are all boomed in, and without they intend to burn the clefts of the Rock, and set our sandy beach on fire, they had better keep their present distance, nor unthinkingly rush on, where certain ruin must be the consequence. Our garrison are pretty healthy, considering the hardships, dangers, and scarcity of fresh diet, which at present prevails; but of late, they have been very much afflicted with the most inveterate scurvy, which deprived many of the use of their limbs, by rendering them stiff and swelled. The flesh of the sufferers, I assure you, was almost black; and you would pity (were you a spectator) to view them limping to their post, to partake of a share with their comrades in opposing the foe. With every good wish, permit me to subscribe myself

Your loving Brother.

LETTER XXIX.

Gibraltar.

DEAR BROTHER,

1782
Feb. 1.

THE besiegers, spurred on by hope and expectation, to work the reduction of the fortrefs, are indefatigably employed in forwarding the re-construction of *St. Carlos*, and the adjacents. From their batteries they continue a plentiful discharge of ordnance, by which we now and then lose a man. We anxiously long for the day of attack, as our situation is rather deplorable in respect of provision, and the harrassing duties of guards, picquets, working detachments, and parties, forwards the general wish for engagement. The constant duty with the soldiery is ten and eleven days and nights up, and probably when it comes to your turn to have a night to sleep in your tent, the enemy from the sea-line disturbs you from repose.

Prices of Provision brought by the Viper and Lively cutters, on the 29th of last month.

Common Green Tea <i>per lb.</i>	-	£.1	1	0
Hams <i>per ditto</i>	- - - -	0	3	3
Corned Beef <i>ditto</i>	- - - -	0	1	8
Port Wine <i>per dozen</i>	- - - -	1	14	5
A sheep	- - - -	14	1	0
Cheese <i>per lb.</i>	- - - -	0	4	10h
Butter <i>ditto</i>	- - - -	0	4	10h

The enemy carry on their works in a rapid manner. They last night erected a battery of five embrazures on the west side of the *Mill-Tower* ;

Tower ; St. Carlos, by what we can discern from the heights of the Rock, appears to have received a complete repair. Our batteries endeavour, as much as possible, to prevent the executing of their labours on the isthmus. 1782 Feb. 4th.

Antonio Juanico, ordered for execution this day, is respited. Arrived from the westward two small vessels from *Portugal*, laden with lemons and oranges, a very refreshing supply.

A small boat, that appeared off *Cabritta-Point*, was fired at several times from the battery at that place, but without effect ; upon this a *Spanish* lugger got under sail, endeavouring to cut her off, but to very little purpose, as the boat had nearly anchored before she had got half-way over. She proves to be from *Lisbon*, laden with fruit and oranges. 6th.

The enemy's cruizers have been particularly busy all this day, running in and out alternately. We imagine they have received intimation of some vessel bound for this place. They on the land side keep working and firing. 10th.

Wind N. E. Arrived safe, the *Young Sabine*, with porter, wine, and potatoes. Our men of war's boats towed her round *Europa*. It is confidently asserted, that she has brought intelligence to the Governor of a very interesting nature, but we cannot learn the particulars. The *Spanish* cruizers were disappointed in missing the capture of this vessel, as all their attempts to effect it were rendered ineffectual. 13th.

Arrived the brig *Eliza*, with sundry articles on board, for the use of the garrison. The *Spanish* cruizers, who returned yesterday evening.

- 1782 ing to *Algaziras*, made a signal too late, to do
 Feb. themselves any service: they are cruising in
 16th. the Bay and round the Rock, but keep at long-
 gun shot distance; they came near *Europa*, but
 a few shot from that post made them steer ano-
 ther course.

The *Spanish* works are briskly forwarded, the isthmus is almost become a scene of enchantment: the enemy certainly must employ a considerable number of men, or otherwise they could not make such rapid progress in their advances

- 17th. Wind N. W. This morning a sail appeared standing from the westward; the *Spanish* towers let fly a signal of an enemy's appearance; a frigate, xebec, and several gun-boats, immediately got under way, while the battery at *Cabritta-point* fired several rounds. The xebec bore down, when the *English* vessel opened upon her, and made her haul her wind, and soon afterwards she dropped astern, the frigate and gun-boats then stood across to intercept her, which she as spiritedly engaged, receiving two broad-sides from the frigate, and several rounds from the gun-boats. After having engaged a considerable time, such a superior force, she had the good fortune to get in without much damage, and proves to be the *Flying-fish* cutter, commanded by Captain *Anthony*, in eight days from *England*, laden with ordnance stores. Some of the enemy's boats being drove very near the garrison, the batteries at *Europa* discharged a few shot at them, but plying their oars briskly, they got off without any injury. The various manœuvres of the latter, afforded the garrison much entertainment. Wind

Wind S. W. Last night a brig from the 1782
 westward entered the Bay, observing the lights Feb.
 in the *Spanish* camp, steered for that place, 18th.
 imagining it must have been the town of *Gib-*
raltar. The captain continued his course till
 he came opposite to *Prince Orange's battery*,
 when the officer on duty there challenged the
 ship, who answered, "*From Cork.*" The cap-
 tain now discovered his error, and finding he
 was steering under the enemy's batteries, put
 about, and run aground at the back of the
Old Mole, when *Fort Phillippe* and the *Black-*
Battery began a fire upon her. The captain,
 when he landed, in a jocular manner endea-
 voured to apologize for the mistake, by
 saying, he intended to run his ship up to his
 merchant's store-house. She has brought a
 supply of butter, pork, and potatoes, which
 is intended to be landed, if possible, this night.
 Her name is the *Governor Elliot* brig, *Samuel*
Seldon, Master.

This morning we observed a battery of 12 20th.
 embrasures constructed on the isthmus, and
 in other parts the sand was thrown up as a
 cover. The enemy fired very warmly on the
Governor Elliot brig, and have greatly damaged
 her—part of the cargo has been landed. A
 brisk fire continues on both sides.

A *Portuguese* schooner from the west, was
 taken between *Tarifa* and *Cabritta-point*, and
 brought into *Algaziras*, where there is not any
 doubt she will be condemned. The wind hav-
 ing sprung up easterly, a *Tartan* arrived from
Leghorn, with a cargo of wine and useful ne-
 cessaries. Several gun-boats also arrived from
 the east; we imagine them to be the remain-
 der that chased the two cutters on the 16th of
January.

Wind I

1782 Wind E. Sailed last night from hence the
Feb. *Viper*, *Lively*, and *Dartmouth Tartar* cutters.

21st. About an hour afterwards the *Spanish* towers were illuminated, and a number of rockets thrown up. The enemy keep hard and constantly at work on the isthmus.

23d. Wind W. This morning the shipping at *Algaziras* was dressed with full colours, at noon a *feu de joye* was fired by land and sea, and repeated three times.

A ship appeared in the Offing, standing for this place, when a frigate and xebec made ready. She continued her course, and received their fire with great intrepidity, plying her guns in an heroic manner. After about an hour's fire she got in, and proves to be the *Mercury* store-ship, Captain *Heighington*, from *Lisbon*, with wine, poultry, and fruit.

24th. Wind W. Arrived at *Algaziras* from the westward, a frigate, two xebecs, and two cutters, as a reinforcement to the *Spanish* squadron. The *Spanish* working parties are busily employed.

25th. Wind W. Arrived the *St. Ann* of 28 guns, in twelve days from *London*, with ordnance stores. Not any particular intelligence received, except that she was chased some leagues to the westward, and escaped during the night.

28th. Wind E. Arrived the *Indian King*, from *Leghorn*, with timber and liquors, a brisk fire on both sides was kept up. The enemy continue laboriously working on the isthmus, forwarding, with all possible expedition, their new approaches. The nearest branch is almost in a line with the north angle of *Landport Garden*.

Your affectionate Brother.

LETTER XXX.

Gibraltar.

DEAR BROTHER,

THE victors of one day are often defeated 1782
 by another, and lose those laurels that were Mar. 1
 carried in triumph from the field of slaughter.
 The fate of *Minorca* was announced here this
 morning, by a flag of truce from the *Orange-*
Grove, with the intelligence of that for-
 tress having surrendered to His Catholic
 Majesty's forces, and that the *feu de joye*, fired
 on the 23d of February, was in celebration of
 the conquest. It is not improbable but the
 enemy entertain lively notions of this place,
 and imagine that this piece of information
 may tend to depress our spirits, and facilitate
 a speedy surrender.

We kept up a very hot fire all the afternoon,
 and set the enemy's works in a blaze, which
 they extinguished shortly afterwards.

This morning our batteries directed their 2d.
 fire upon the enemy's advanced works on the
 isthmus, when a heavy and incessant canno-
 nade was spiritedly maintained between the
 enemy and garrison, till nine o'clock, during
 which time we had the fortune to set their
 works on fire again. The foe manifested a
 valour, and in an intrepid manner jumped
 upon the glacis, pouring baskets of sand upon
 the flames, when, after much difficulty and
 danger, they got the fire extinguished.

Wind E,

1781 Wind E. Last night the *Flying-Fish* cutter, Mar. failed to the westward with dispatches. The 4th. enemy keep advancing their approaches towards the garrison. The cannonade but slack these two days.

5th. Arrived the *Pearl Canario*, Patron Prats, from *Algiers*, with sheep and wine, the former sells at an exorbitant price.

A frigate from the eastward arrived this morning at *Algaziras*.—Several vessels at *Orange Grove*, are discharging ordnance stores, camp equipage, &c.—The reduction of the Island of *Minorca*, apparently has put the enemy in high spirits, as appearances in their camp, bespeak preparations for a reinforcement of troops. The enemy have redoubled the cannonade upon the garrison, and the advanced works are considerably lengthened: the next turn of the last branch will bring the line nearly to the centre of the Gardens. Our fire must be very distressing to them, they being so near to the Rock;—the small shells are distributed in abundance on their parties.

6th. One of the *Spanish* frigates failed to the eastward: and this afternoon, the wind having shifted, another stood to the westward. A xebec and a cutter having approached too near the Rock, was fired at by our Frams, and obliged to bear away for *Algaziras*.

9th. The enemy keep working and moderately firing, by which Lieutenant *Cuppage*, of the Royal Artillery, was this day wounded: all quiet on the sea side.

10th. The enemy indicate fresh preparations for the ensuing storm, several parties being employed this morning in clearing ground for a reinforcement.

reinforcement of troops. A number of tents 1782
are already pitched. A xebec, which came Mar.
near the garrison, had several rounds fired at 10th.
her, which compelled her to sheer off. We
discharged a number of carcasses upon the ene-
my's isthmus works, with an intent to burn
them, but did not meet with the completion
of our wishes. The gun-boats cover the face
of the Bay, and lay upon their oars. Parties
continue employed in pitching tents, and clear-
ing ground in the *Spanish* camp.

The enemy work most assiduously, and have 16th.
raised a very high and well-planned breast-
work, supposed by our engineers and artille-
rists to be intended for a mortar-battery.

This day arrived at *Algaziras* a frigate from
the westward, but no salute was given.

The enemy's fire these three days has been
particularly spirited, by which we had some
few wounded, among whom is Lieutenant
White, of the 56th regiment. Our batteries
are now bravely playing upon the foe.

Wind S. Two frigates having come within 17th.
the reach of our prams, anchored off the *New-
Mole*; they began a well-directed and furious
fire upon them. One of the frigates, it was
observed, received several shot.

Our fishing-boats were drove out of the Bay 18th.
this morning by a xebec, who kept a gentle
sail, until, by her repeated firings, she made
them all retreat to the shore. The inhum-
anity of this act is better to be conceived than
expressed. The *Spaniards* are forwarding their
works, and discharging their ordnance upon
us.

The

1782 The Governor has ordered the bridge at
 Mar. Landport to be pulled down, and the commu-
 19th. nication to that post will be through the
 fallyport in the ditch,* where there is to be a
 temporary stage made, for the purpose of de-
 tachments passing and repassing from the co-
 vered-way, and out-guards. Also one of the
 slopes, by which the guards and centinels now
 ascend to their posts, is to be levelled. An en-
 campment was began this morning on the west
 of the *Orange Grove*. We expect the siege will
 quickly come to an issue, from the prepara-
 tions making by the foe.

We observed this morning, that the enemy
 had begun an encampment for cavalry, in the
 rear of the grand magazine, west of *Orange-
 Grove*.

22d. Last night, about eleven o'clock, a mill on
Windmill-hill, constructed for the purpose of
 grinding wheat sent over from *Britain*, by some
 means took fire, and was consumed. The ene-
 my are very busy with some shipping, which
 is imagined are intended for *fire-floats*.

24th. Wind W. Last night arrived the *Vernon*-
 store-ship, with materials for gun-boats, what
 we have long wished for. The *Succes*s frigate
 escorted her to latitude 36, when she left her,
 and returned to *England*. The *Succes*s, on her
 passage took the *Santa Catalina*, a *Spanish* fri-
 gate, who afterwards was burnt on the appear-
 ance of the *Cerberus* and *Apollo* frigates (sus-
 pecting them to be enemies) and four trans-
 ports, that came in also during the night, hav-
 ing

* A door in a Bastion and Battery, for the purpose of
 making a fally, unexpectedly, on the besiegers.

ing on board the 97th regiment, as a reinforcement to the garrison. 1782
Mar.

Three very large ships, and four xebecs, arrived at *Algaziras*, imagined to be laden with stores and provision.

This day our flag of truce carried to *Orange Grove* some officers and men, put on board the *Vernon*, belonging to the *Santa Catalina* frigate. 25th.
The enemy continue their usual working parties. From ten o'clock last night, till day-break this morning, a brisk fire was maintained with determined resolution, between forts *Barbary*, *Phillippe*, and the batteries on the heights of the hill. One shot from the enemy this day wounded four men—all in a dangerous way.

The enemy's ships and forts fired several rounds alternately. It is supposed the rejoicing 30th.
is (on account of this being Passion-Saturday) in celebration of our Saviour's resurrection. The *Spanish* working parties have not done any quantity of work to-day.

This morning the batteries at *Willis's* and *Montague's Bastion*, opened with martial rage 31st.
upon the isthmus works. Wind N. W. a very fresh breeze. Shot and shells were incessantly discharged, when one of the latter having penetrated into the fascines, immediately set that part in a flame, which continued burning until about thirty yards was consumed. The flames spread in a rapid manner, and the enemy did all they could to prevent the progress of the fire, nor could they extinguish it by any means, but was under the necessity of cutting an opening, as the only remedy to secure their approaches from being again destroyed.

The

1782 The troops in the camp of *Santa Roque* came March out of their tents to view the spirited action, while only the flash of guns, and exploding shells were to be seen; the isthmus, and northernmost part of the Rock being hid with the clouds of smoke.

Sincerely your's,

LETTER XXXI.

"Who like the Cur barks at the crowd that passes?"

Gibraltar.

DEAR BROTHER,

April: SUCH is the disposition of our inveterate and malignant foes, every ship, sloop, or bark that appears, immediately a gun is discharged, and a cruizer sent out to interrogate, "*From whence come ye, or where are you bound?*" A Swedish vessel was brought into *Algaziras* yesterday evening for not bringing to, upon a gun being fired from a double galley off the Point.

Arrived a vessel from *Portugal*, with ninety sheep during the course of the night.

This morning a soldier deserted from *Land-port guard*, and received the fire of the musquetry of all the centinels, but without effect. The *Spanish* working parties are diligently employed.

Last

Last night a *Spanish* deserter came in, and reports, that the soldier which deserted yesterday was wounded by our fire, and died in the greatest agony, in the *Mill Battery* (or *St Carlos*.) This forenoon a great many infantry tents was pitched east side of the *Horse Barracks*, and some squadrons of infantry marched in

1782
April.
2d.

The encampment west of the *Orange Grove* is taken possession of by troops ; but they do not appear very numerous, or perhaps they are tired with their march over the mountains, and keep their tents as a relaxation from their fatigue. The enemy cannonade the garrison excessively warm, three men and a boy wounded at *Willis's* by a rebound of a shot.—A new encampment is forming about a quarter of a mile from the *Horse District*—The tents are for infantry, and appear quite new.

9th.

The encampment pitched yesterday is hourly increasing in the number of tents, but not any considerable body of troops appear. The enemy fired very hot this morning, and a shell which fell in *Landport Ditch*, just as the new guard came to relieve the old one, killed Lieutenant *Whetham*, of the 12th Regiment, wounded his servant who was on the right of the guard, and blew the drummer's drum in pieces. He was an amiable officer, and well respected ; the loss of him is much regretted by all ranks in the garrison.

10th.

Six lug-sail boats arrived from the westward ; from their form and construction we apprehend they are intended for landing of troops. Every thing now indicates a speedy and vigorous assault. Our enemies are seemingly prepared for

1781 for immediate battle, their isthmus works being almost completed.

11th. Wind W. Arrived a boat from *Portugal* with goats, fowls, &c. The Patron brings intelligence, that ships and floating-batteries are fitting up in the port of *Cadiz*, lined with cork and oakum, whose strength are to turn a cannon-ball, and that when *Duke de Crillon* arrives with his conquering, valiant, and successful troops, from the glorious expedition at *Minorca*, he is to take the command of the forces, and head the army in their attack upon this place. He says, that from the accounts received in *Portugal*, that the Spaniards are in high spirits from the recent success of the Duke at *Minorca*, that great expectation is placed on the valour of the troops under his command, and that on their arrival, the attack will commence.

15th. Arrived a large cutter at *Algaziras*, from the west. The enemy have brought forward their approaches considerably towards the garrison. A general discharge of ordnance prevails.

16th. Wind S. W. Two large xebecs arrived this forenoon on the opposite side, and several small settees, all from the westward.

The enemy's force now consists of three frigates, four large xebecs, one cutter, one bomb-ketch, at *Algaziras*; one large xebec, one cutter, one lugger, one bomb-ketch, at *Orange Grove*; one large xebec, one small ditto, one sloop of war at *Cabritta*; fifteen gun-boats, eight mortar boats, ten or twelve fire-ships in the rivers, besides what shipping they have at *Ceuta*, and cruising to the eastward.

Landport-bridge is taken down, and it is reported that both the slopes are to be levelled, and

and only a timber ascent made, that in case of any emergence may be set on fire, to prevent the enemy's entrance into the ditch under the *Grand Battery*. 1782 April.

Our working-parties are employed in erecting splinter proofs upon the batteries on the hill, as a cover from the bomb-shells when they explode in the air, which the *Spaniards* have practised of late.

Wind N. W. This morning, upon a ship being discovered by the enemy in the Offing, they hoisted a signal on the tower at *Cabritta*, which not being answered, a xebec and sloop, stationed at the Point, slipped out, and bore down under a pressure of sail.—The xebec having got a-head, fired a broadside at her, which was directly returned by the ship; the sloop now came up, and fired a few guns, notwithstanding which, she continued her course, and got safe in, without any loss. She proves to be the *Antigallican* store-ship, in eight days from *Falmouth*. The enemy, apparently, are not so attentively employed on the isthmus as formerly. 20th.

The regiments in the town and southward exchanged quarters this forenoon. 21st.

Very little work done by the enemy.—The gun-boats brought over by the *Vernon*, are getting in great forwardness in the *New-Mole Yard*.

Several parties employed daily in bringing fascines into the *Spanish* camp. We suppose that the want of these materials has been the occasion of their ceasing from work these three days. Forts *Barbary* and *Phillippe*, the *Black-M Battery*. 22d.

- 1782 *Battery* and lines, fired this afternoon minute April guns, with shot, upon the garrison.
- 24th. This forenoon an experimental trial was made with one of the gun-boats, mounted with an eighteen pounder. The first and second shot fired horizontally recouched three or four times; the third had a degree of elevation, and went a distance in the bay. The Naval Commander promises great success from them when the twelve is finished. All hands busy at work upon them.
- 25th. This morning early a deserter from the Volunteers of *Argon* came in, and confirms a former account of ships being preparing for the purpose of attacking this garrison, lined with cork and junk to prevent the penetration of our shot. A few working parties again appear on the isthmus, but their labours are executed under cover.
- 27th. This day one of our long boats from *Ragged Staff* to the *New Mole* with iron, sprung a leak, and went to the bottom, unfortunately a man and a boy were drowned.
- 28th. Wind W. S. W. This morning two ships, brig-rigged, and a schooner, appeared in the Gut, with their heads standing to the east.—The *Spanish* towers made a signal of an enemy being at hand, upon which two xebecs, and eight gun-boats went out in order to secure them, but were unexpectedly disappointed, they proving to belong to the *French*. The rapidity of the current, and the wind having shifted to the N. W. the xebecs and gun-boats drove to the eastward.
- 30th. The enemy's batteries appear to be nearly finished; for notwithstanding we only now
and

and then discharge a few rounds of shot and shells, they have not taken the opportunity of doing any work. In the *Spanish* camp, a numerous army are seen—the whole Common at the foot of *Santa Roque*, is become a town and place of habitation, where a grand display of slaughtering instruments is exhibited, and the most renowned engineers, experienced artilleryists, and approved soldiers and seamen, are bent upon our extirpation from this heart-galling Rock. That their views and intentions may be frustrated, is the sincere and hearty wish of

Your affectionate Brother.

L E T T E R X X X I I .

Gibraltar.

DEAR BROTHER,

EVERY opportunity that offers of writing to you, I readily embrace, and find an infinite satisfaction in the employ, conscious that your bosom feels for my absence and situation; I should consider myself unpardonable in any omission.

The enemy continue the siege, and are getting in forwardness the most studious preparations for an attack. It is beyond dispute that the contention will shortly be finally adjusted.

Last night, Wind E. failed the *Cerberus* and *Apollo* frigates, *St. Ann*, *Vernon*, *Mercury*, and *Antigallican* store-ships; the *Betsy*, *Thompson*, *Loyal Briton*, and *Valiant* transports, at which

M 2

time

1782 time two *Spanish* frigates and three xebecs were
 May 8. cruizing in the Gut. They had not been long
 under sail, when rockets were thrown up at
Algaziras, and answered at *Cabritta*.—About
 an hour after a cannonading was heard in the
 Gut, and continued for some time tolerably
 brisk; and this morning we had the mortifi-
 cation to view the enemy returning with the
 three last named transports, being the only de-
 fenceless vessels that sailed from hence. Their
 sails were very much torn, and it is supposed
 the enemy alone directed their fire upon them,
 not liking to attack the store-ships; they have
 a formidable appearance in the night. Thus
 victorious they entered the Bay in triumph,
 and conducted their prizes (manned only with
 about twenty-one men) to the port of *Algazi-
 ras*, there to recount the dangers of the battle,
 and to regale themselves with the spoil.

9th. Wind W. S. W. This forenoon arrived from
 the westward one line of battle ship, conveying
 eight large store-ships or Indiamen. From the
 appearance of their rigging and sides, which is
 dry and shabby, and having but a few hands
 on board, we cannot imagine from what part
 they have arrived, or what occasion brought
 them in here. All hands busy about the *Spa-
 nish* camp.

10th. Wind S. E. Arrived a *Portuguese* settee from
Tetuan, with about 30,000 oranges, and a few
 pipes of oil. She was cleared out for *Cadiz*,
 but smuggled herself in here, where they will
 find a good market for their cargo.—Oranges
 are sold for a rial each, about fourpence three-
 farthings sterling.

The

The eight large ships that arrived over the way the 9th instant, are hauled close to the shore, and are unrigging, and those that arrived the 24th March have proceeded to the *Orange Grove*. It is currently reported that they are lined with cork, and are to be converted into batteries, but most people think that they are more fit for fire-wood, than attacking a fortress. 1782 May 13th.

The store-ships at *Algaziras* are quite unrigged, and a great many hands employed upon them clearing their decks. The land fire is maintained with spirit, but very little work seemingly going forward on the isthmus. 15th.

Last night three soldiers, in attempting to desert from the heights of the Rock, fell from a precipice, and were found dead under the *Sugar-Loaf*, lying near each other. They had procured a rope, and fastened it to a cleft of the Rock, but it was not of a sufficient length to reach the bottom. 20th.

Arrived a xebec and a galley from the westward at *Algaziras*. The enemy are employed upon two of the store-ships, cutting their sides down. 22d.

The enemy continue working on the two store-ships at *Algaziras*, and appear to be thickening with pieces of timber and other materials, their larboard sides. Several ports have been already cut: from this it is evident they are intended for floating batteries. Wind E. The other store-ships that lay at *Orange Grove* sailed from thence to the westward, having discharged their lading, which is supposed to be ordnance stores. 25th.

Arrived

1782 Arrived the *St. George* xebec, with a small
 May supply from *Leghorn*, having on board twelve
Corficans, including one officer, who have voluntarily
 come to offer their service in the defence of this place.
 They mention that several more are preparing to
 embark on the same expedition.

26th. Arrived the *John Tartan*, Captain *McKillister*,
 from *Leghorn*, with a supply of wine and oil.
 She brings intelligence, that we may be assured
 of a vigorous attack, as soon as the *Spanish*
 ships are ready, which will be made so strong,
 and of such a nature, that they will neither
 burn nor batter.

The *Spanish* hospital last night took fire,
 and is entirely consumed.

27th. Wind S. E. Yesterday evening near one
 hundred sail of transports, and a bomb-ketch,
 arrived and anchored between *Algaziras* and
Orange Grove, and this morning we perceived
 they were very full of men, which are supposed
 to be troops.

28th. A considerable body of troops were landed
 from the transports this afternoon, and marched
 into the *Spanish* camp. The enemy had
 hauled two transports in, and have begun un-
 rigging them. The two large ships that the
 enemy have been working at, have each of
 them fourteen or fifteen port-holes cut in their
 larboard sides.

A flag of truce was received from *Spain*, but
 her message is mere conjecture with the public.
 Some say, she has brought a demand from the
Spanish General, for the surrendering of the
 fortress; but this, I am confident, never will
 be

be done, while we have an ounce of bread, 1782
and a round of ammunition. May.

An *English Tartan* was taken to the eastward 30th.
and towed by the enemy into *Algaziras*, with
her colours reversed. It is asserted that this
vessel is the one that Patron *Pratt* sailed from
this port to *Algiers* for supplies.

Our twelve gun-boats in *New-Mole-yard* are
nearly finished; several are already in the wa-
ter, and lye very snug. We are very anxious
to make trial of them with the enemy. A boat
went out this day with a flag of truce into the
Bay, with the Governor's answer to theirs,
received the 28th instant.

The ships at *Algaziras* are getting pretty for-
ward; a number of hands are employed upon
them, but most of the garrison are of opinion,
from their construction, that they will be found
of very little use when they attack our walls,
as they never will be able to tow them near
enough to do any material execution, for
should they daringly come on, their boats will
be inevitably cut off by the grape shot from
the garrison.

We shall have pretty sport soon. I hope to
survive to send you an account of the particu-
lars, wherein a victorious repulse, I trust, will
be found; and probably before you receive this
letter, the battle will have taken place, and
the contest be decided.

With a heart glowing with zeal for the ho-
nour of *Britain* and her Dependencies, permit
me to conclude, with the most brotherly love
and esteem,

Sincerely your's,

LETTER

LETTER XXXIII.

Gibraltar.

DEAR BROTHER,

1782
June 1. **T**HE enemy labour constantly at equipping the store-ships for service; from the lights observed at *Algaziras* last night, we imagine they were busy at work;—the masts of most of them are taken out.

This morning died here, Brigadier-General Stanton, of the 97th regiment.

3d. Wind E. This day a convoy of near fifty sail of different sizes, arrived from the eastward at *Algaziras*, with stores and provision for the use of their army and navy. The cannonade continues pretty brisk on both sides, but we have only a few wounded.

GARRISON ORDERS.

*The Royal Standard to be hoisted to-morrow—
The Governor desires to meet all the officers not on duty, on their respective parades, at guard-mounting to-morrow, to congratulate with them on the anniversary of his majesty's birth-day.*

Such ordnance to be fired at the enemy's works, as shall be ordered by the Commanding Officer of the Royal Artillery, beginning at one o'clock.

4th. The royal standard was hoisted this morning on the flag-staff in town, and on board the *Brilliant* in New Mole. At one o'clock the northernmost

northernmost batteries fired forty-four rounds 1782 of shot and shells upon the enemy's forts and June. works, in honour of his majesty's birth-day. The shipping in the *New Mole*, and our twelve gun-boats arranged in a line from the *Tanks* to the pier of the *New Mole Head*, also performed a salute, and gave three cheers. The enemy maintained a brisk fire the whole day. The floating batteries (or cork ships) at *Algaziras*, are forwarding with all possible diligence.

A hot fire from the land batteries, upon our 6th. works and parties, which is as spiritedly returned from our heights.

Captain *Wideburg*, of *Reden's* regiment of *Hanoverians*, was wounded this day.

The *Spaniards* have a great many hands employed upon seven ships at *Algaziras*; most of them have ports cut in their sides, but none of them appear to be finished.

This forenoon our Artillery had some *red* 7th. *hot shot*, experimental practice, at the vessel wrecked off *Prince Orange's* battery, which succeeded pretty well. An unfortunate accident happened by a gun unexpectedly going off, which killed the gunner in the embrasure, and wounded three other men. A constant fire from the Rock Gun upon the enemy's works on the isthmus.

GARRISON ORDERS.

One quarter and half of a pint of vinegar to be issued to every ration, till further orders.

The

1782 The surgeons of the different corps are of June. opinion, that this will be a great preventative in the sad effects of the scurvy.

10th. The men employed upon the seven floating-batteries, work with the greatest assiduity, but as yet we cannot form any judgment of their utility or construction.

Early this morning the *Spanish* gun and mortar-boats made an excursion in the Bay, and discharged their ordnance upon the garrison: they fired very warm for an hour and three quarters, during which time we had several men wounded. A soldier is missing, supposed to have deserted.

11th. This forenoon, a thirteen-inch shell, fired from the enemy's works, fell upon a magazine at *Princess Ann's* battery, where there were many men at work and on duty; it forced its way through the splinter-proof which covered the magazine door, burst it open, and in the explosion blew up the magazine. We had fifteen men killed, and twenty-one wounded. Scarce had the explosion taken place, when the enemy began a very brisk cannonade and bombardment from every battery on the isthmus and lines, particularly directed to the spot where the unfortunate accident happened.—The Royal Artillery felt for the loss, and in retaliation gave the foe most heavy and well-directed discharges of shot and shells, which they met with astonishing bravery.

The man missing the 10th instant, was taken this day at the back of the Rock, by a party of men; and sent on board the *Provost* ship, a place of confinement, and answers the purpose of a garrison gaol.

The

The enemy labour with the utmost diligence 1782
on their floating batteries; their whole atten- June.
tion seems to be engaged in their equipment. 13th.
It is conjectured that in five or six weeks they
will be completed, and ready for action. If
they are not successful when they attack our
walls, the enemy will be obliged to abandon
them to our cannonade, as from their appa-
rent heaviness, it cannot be supposed practica-
ble to get them from their anchorage.

This day a soldier deserted from *Landport* 14th.
guard; the sentinels fired at him, but he made
his escape without receiving any hurt from
the musquetry.—Wind E. A *French* frigate
convoying a number of small craft, arrived at
Algaziras from the eastward with troops on
board. About two o'clock this afternoon, a
Spanish xebec was becalmed near the garrison.
The southward batteries and prams, at *New-
Mole Head*, fired upon her, assisted by Captain
Curtis, and our twelve gun-boats. The xebec
perceiving her situation to be growing very
desperate, fired a gun to windward as a signal
for assistance, while *Curtis's* boats kept a fire
upon her head. The enemy sent several small
cruisers to her relief, when unluckily a breeze
sprang up from the east, and two *Spanish* gun-
boats towed her out of the reach of our guns.
Had it continued a calm much longer, she
must have been under the necessity of striking.
She received several shot from the garrison
guns.

The xebec we fired at yesterday, is observed 15th.
to be upon her keel, no doubt repairing the
damage she received.

Wind E.

1702 Wind E. A fettee from the eastward was
 June. carried by a *Spanish* cruizer into *Algaziras*, un-
 1702. der *English* colours; in all probability she was
 laden with cattle for the garrison, which is
 much wanted, and sells at a great price:—beef
 four shillings and ten-pence halfpenny per
 pound, and mutton five shillings and sixpence
 per pound. You may judge the scarcity and
 dearness, when I inform you that a bullock
 intended to be slaughtered, is purchased every
 pound before killed, except the liver, which
 sells at one shilling and sixpence per pound,
 and for which a crowd of women and chil-
 dren will be fighting for the purchase at the
 slaughter-house door. A bullock's head, with-
 out a tongue, has been sold for seven dollars
 and a half, which is according to the exchange
 of money, one pound three shillings and four-
 pence halfpenny, and the tongue for eight shil-
 lings and three half-pence.

18th. Yesterday evening, wind W. one *Spanish* ship
 of the line, three large store-ships, and eight
 other vessels arrived at *Algaziras*, from the
 westward. It is the general opinion of the
 garrison, that the three large ships are for the
 purpose of making floating-batteries, to co-
 operate with those now preparing at *Algaziras*,
 as they are hauled in under the land.

This afternoon, the wind having shifted to
 S. E. three frigates, and between seventy and
 eighty transports under *French* colours, with
 troops on board, arrived from the eastward,
 and anchored at *Algaziras*. We conjecture
 they have brought a reinforcement of about
 six thousand men. Our prams fired several
 shot at four of the enemy's gun-boats that
 came

came within reach : a shot went through the 1782
 sail of the headmost, when they sheered off. June.

Three frigates, with several sail under con- 19th.
 voy, passed to the westward—could not discern
 to what nation they belong.

The troops arrived in the *French* transports 20th.
 have begun disembarking ; several gun-boats
 already landed at the pier of the *Orange Grove*.
 A vessel with a *Spanish* ensign above the *English*,
 was carried into *Algaziras*. The enemy are
 busy in unrigging the three last store-ships,
 and cutting down their sides. The fire from
 the land side is continued with unabating
 spirit.

A boat came over last night from *Algaziras*, 21st.
 with two men taken in the sette the 17th in-
 stant ; they cut the boat adrift. They report
 that the *Spaniards* were in high spirits, and en-
 tertain great expectation from ten junk ships
 which are getting ready with all possible expe-
 dition, whose strength and form will be im-
 pregnable, both against shot and shells. We
 shall of course find stubborn and difficult work
 in engaging them.

The *French* troops finished landing this day,
 and are encamped on the left of the *Spanish*
 army : they are commanded by the *Duke de*
Crillon. From the best account arrived, the
 enemy's land forces amount to thirty thousand
 men.

This day the enemy ceased firing on the gar- 23d.
 rison, which is very surprising, as our work-
 ing parties are numerous on the hill. The
 enemy are very busy on their ten floating bat-
 teries ; they have cut down the sides of the
 three last ships arrived, almost level with the
 water. The,

1782 The enemy's batteries are still silent; every June. thing on the isthmus wears a different appearance. It is imagined that *Duke de Grillion* succeeds *General Alvarez* in command, and that a new arrangement of operations has taken place. We fire very negligently on the enemy, and that mostly in the night. The floating batteries have a number of hands at work upon them, but we cannot make out what they are doing.

27th. All quiet on the isthmus, excepting now and then a shot for diversion, which sometimes we return, and sometimes not. Our Governor has taken this opportunity of repairing and strengthening the works and batteries. Several strong working parties employed to the northward.

29th. Little fire from the enemy. The floating-batteries are forwarding with incredible expedition. The enemy have begun forming something over the deck of one of them, we suppose for a splinter-proof—time will manifest the use of it.

I remain,

Dear Brother,

Affectionately Yours.

LETTER

LETTER XXXIV.

Gibraltar.

DEAR BROTHER,

THE enemy observe great silence on the 1782
 isthmus, but an unusual activity appears July 1.
 in and about their stores and grand magazine:
 some are of opinion that the attack will be
 made sudden and in the night time. We are
 well satisfied with the ceasing of the cannonade,
 as it affords us the opportunity of repairing
 our very-much shattered and damaged works.
 This morning we fired six shells from Willis's
 into the *Spanish* lines, which they answered
 with one shot.

Six battalions in the *Spanish* encampment,
 struck their tents this morning, and removed
 to another part of the camp.

All busy at *Algaziras*. The construction of
 the cover of one of the floating batteries is
 much resembling the roof of a house, but at
 the distance they now are, cannot hazard a
 description. The general opinion of the gar-
 rison is, that the enemy will experience great
 labour and difficulty to bring them on, as
 they must be very heavy from the quantity of
 timber which compose their bulk.

The regiments in the garrison for several
 days past, have been practising firing ball from
 the line-wall, at a target placed a small distance
 from the Rock, in the sea.

Some few shot and shells from the enemy 3d.
 this day. The floating batteries are in great
 forwardness. The

1782 The junk ships are not yet completed ; they
 July. have roofed a second, and began a third ; so
 6th. that we imagine they will all be finished in the
 same manner.

7th. Wind W. Early this morning a brig from
 the westward was discovered in the Offing, the
Spanish towers hung out the signal of an ene-
 my, when a xebec and four gun-boats pushed
 out : the boats soon came up with her and be-
 gan a fire, which she returned, and beat them
 off : the xebec then bore down and boarded
 her in a manful manner ; and shortly after
 they hoisted the *Spanish* colours above the *Eng-
 lish* : she was conducted under this escort in
 triumph to *Algaziras*. We feel a sensible un-
 easiness in not having a force sufficient to pro-
 tect any vessel standing for the Bay. It must
 be very distressing, after a vessel has escaped
 crossing the sea, to be taken in sight of their
 destined port, and sometimes almost within
 reach of the garrison guns.

This afternoon arrived from the westward,
 and anchored at *Cabritta*, a frigate and a xe-
 bec. We expect some other vessel is in sight
 of the coast.

10th. The enemy continue working on the cork
 ships, roofing them over, which makes them
 have a very odd appearance. A serjeant is mis-
 sing supposed to have deserted.

11th. This afternoon four men belonging to one
 of the Prams, went in a boat to the enemy.
 We fired at them, but too late to prevent their
 escape. The serjeant missing on the 10th, was
 found at the back of the rock, half way down,
 but for want of a rope could not get any fur-
 ther.

This

This morning a soldier deserted from *Queen's* 1782
Lines Guard. A Prophet is taken up, and sent July
 on board the *Provost ship*. Like *Jonah* warn- 13th.
 ing the city of *Nineveh*, so he publicly avowed
 that within six weeks, six days, and six hours,
 from last Saturday at twelve o'clock, the garri-
 son would be taken, and the Governor killed :
 he is a soldier belonging to the 73d regiment,
 and, at the expiration of the time, there is
 no doubt but he will suffer for his folly.

This morning came in a deserter from *Spain*: 14th.
 he says that there are forty-four battalions in
 camp ; that *Duke de Crillion* has made a tho-
 rough survey of all the works, and is gone to
Madrid to report to his Catholic Majesty. The
 enemy have not completed any of the floating
 batteries—They have begun this morning form-
 ing a boom across the harbour at *Algaziras*, for
 the protection of their shipping—We flatter
 ourselves that they are apprehensive of the ar-
 rival of our fleet.

Wind W. The *French* convoy failed to the 16th.
 eastward, and the men of war are in readiness
 to weigh. The boom at *Algaziras* is lengthen-
 ing considerably. From these circumstances,
 we conjecture that we shall shortly find relief.
 The floating batteries come on apace.

The boom is lengthened about two thousand 17th.
 yards, and covers all the floating batteries.
 The *Spanish* cruizers are very alert, and neither
 trust to colours or signals. The enemy have
 begun a battery near *Tarifa* (from the account
 the deserter gives that came in on the 14th)
 and that six hundred men were detached for
 that purpose.

N

Wind E.

- 1782 Wind E. Six large boats arrived from the July eastward at *Algaziras*; they appear to be new, 18th. and of the construction of their gun-boats. The enemy keep working day and night at the floating batteries; the roof of one is quite finished, and is much like the top of a house, with a gradual ascent from head and stern.
- 19th. The boom at *Algaziras* is extended the length of the town, and all the cruizers are on the inside; the bomb ketch which lay at the *Orange Grove*, weighed anchor, and has taken her station at the same place. The old pastime of shot and shells cannot be forgot, we keep playing away manfully. A sailor who happened to be in town when a shell burst over his head, exclaimed (with the usual oath for which they are so much distinguished) "*D--n—, but the Spaniards have got a battery in the air.*"
- 21st. All hands busy at work on the opposite shore; three of the floating batteries are roofed over. The regiments exchanged quarters this day.
- 23d. Wind W. A large xebec arrived and anchored at *Algaziras*. The enemy have nearly roofed another of the floating batteries, and the three last that were taken in hand, are in great forwardness.
- 24th. The serjeant taken at the back of the Rock on the 11th, was executed for the same, and died with a penitence becoming his unhappy situation.
- 25th. Wind strong E. Arrived the *St. Philip's-Castle* and *General Murray* sloop of war, from *Leghorn*; they have brought provision for the garrison, with five officers and seventy-five *Corficans*: they bring the agreeable intelligence of
of

of Admiral *Rodney* having defeated the *French*, 1782 and taken the *Ville de Paris* of 110 guns, with July. four other line of battle ships. Our Governor 25th. ordered a salvo from the batteries, and a *feu de joye* to be fired, which you will perceive by the

GARRISON ORDERS.

Parole RODNEY. *A feu de joye to be fired this day to celebrate the victory gained by his majesty's fleet under the command of Sir George Rodney, over the French fleet in the West-Indies. All the ordnance from the Rock gun to Princess Carolina's inclusive, to be fired at one o'clock, beginning at the Rock gun shotted. At six in the evening the regiments will take post on the line wall, in the following order, drawn up two deep.*

The 72d regiment right to the Prince Hesse's battery; 12th join the left of 72d; the two town companies of Artillery on the King's bastion; the 39th on the left of the 12th; Lieutenant-General Reden's left of 39th; Major-General La Motte's left of Reden's; 73d right at Ragged-staff; 56th on the left of 73d; the three South Companies of Royal Artillery in the New-Mole fort.—Two rockets will be thrown up on the right, as a signal to begin the first round; two from the left, when the fire returns from thence for the second round; and two more from the right for the third round. Three cheers when the firing is finished, to begin on the right, and pass along in the same manner as the firing did.

The shipping and gun-boats fired and cheered at one o'clock; the hill batteries saluted the enemy's works with ball, and the regiments

N 2

performed

1782 performed in the evening a running fire of July three rounds, which had a pleasing effect.

25th. I hope this success will contribute to distress and dispirit our foes, who, vaunting of their power, bluster, threaten, and claim victory as their own. Their impregnable floating batteries will shortly be tried, and though the *Spanish* gazettes boast of unborn achievements, yet there is not the least doubt but our red hot pills will effectually answer our purpose. They must be of an amazing construction if blazing twenty-four and thirty-two pounders will not burn them.

This being St. James's Day, the enemy's ships were dressed and saluted three times.—The enemy roofed over another floating battery.

26th. Wind W. Arrived a small settee from *Portugal* with wine and fruit. She has brought a confirmation of the glorious defeat of the *French*. The enemy endeavoured to take her, but were too late in getting out.

30th. The floating batteries come rapidly on; another of them is roofed over. The enemy devote their whole time and study to get them finished; they work day and night. On our part, being convinced they are intended to attack the place, we as anxiously wish for their speedy equipment to give the decisive stroke.—It will be hot and stubborn work, if they are of the strength reported, namely, *bomb-proof*, that will resist a shell which weighs two hundred before it is dischagred from the mortar, and when it descends, is supposed to fall thirty ton weight.

Yours, &c.

L E T T E R. XXXV.

Their blooming hopes soar high in this delusion,
 To gain possession of this envied place,
 And on the battlements Spain's ensigns spread.

Gibraltar.

DEAR BROTHER,

THE foe, ere long, will make their pro- 1782
 mised storm—their batteries are com- Aug. 4.
 pleted, and their junk-ships almost ready. A
 numerous army encamped, and boats for land-
 ing their troops are in the rivers. It is pro-
 bable that this month will be the grand deci-
 sion of the combat, and we heartily wish it, as
 we are almost worn out with constant toils,
 harrassing expectations, and a severe cannon-
 ade, which the enemy began again yesterday
 evening.

The enemy have brought several fire ships
 out of the rivers; the floating batteries have
 a very ugly and odd appearance: we think
 they were mounting ordnance in one to-day,
 as a great number of boats were along side.

The *Corficans* that arrived here from *Leghorn*,
 are formed into a company, viz.

Signor *Antonio Leonettie*, Captain; *Phillippo*
Massaraia, Captain Lieutenant; *Georgio Alex-*
andria Michili, First Lieutenant; *Leonardo*
Monti, Adjutant, with the rank of Lieutenant;
Angelo Raffaelli, second Lieutenant; *Lugi Cotie*,
 Chaplain; four Serjeants, four Corporals, two
 Drummers, and 68 private men:—total eighty-
 four. A deserter

1782 Aug. A deserter from the enemy came in, and says that the floating batteries are almost ready, and that one has been tried with ball, and answers their expectation.

8th. Wind W. Arrived two vessels under Imperial colours, from the westward at *Algaziras*, and the line of battle ship sailed from that place to the *Orange Grove*, supposed to take in powder and stores. The floating batteries are very near finished. The enemy fire with spirit from the land side.

11th. Wind E. This day arrived a *French* twenty gun ship, on the opposite side. Several parties are employed on the strand, beyond the *Spanish* lines, we suppose for the purpose of erecting a battery, they being apprehensive of a visit in that part, whenever our fleet arrives.

The ship that came in yesterday, has removed to the *Orange Grove*, probably to discharge her cargo. The enemy keep labouring at their junk ships, and have taken the masts out of one of them, but most people are of opinion they never will be able to bring them over without sails.

12th. The enemy have put smaller masts into the ship that they dismasted yesterday, and are very busy rigging her—From this it is evident they mean to sail to their anchorage. From what opinion we can at present form, we imagine from their closeness and wanting air, that they will find an inconvenience in working their guns with briskness.

13th. Wind W. Sailed the *Eliza* brig, for *Lcg-horn*. The vessels arrived under Imperial colours, sailed to the *Orange Grove*. The enemy are very busy in rigging two of the floating batteries.

Arrived

Arrived a frigate, under *French* colours from 1782
the westward at *Algaziras*—Four gun boats fir- Aug.
ed at her, apprehending she was an enemy, 14th.
until she displayed her colours.

The enemy have taken out the masts of four
of the batteries, and replaced them with others
much smaller, the two that were rigging have
bent their sails—We imagine they will shortly
all of them be ready.

During the course of last night, the enemy 16th.
erected a work composed of sand bags, extend-
ing obliquely from the eastern shore, towards
the centre of the *Spanish* lines. It is computed
from its length and height, and having so short
a space of time to complete it in (only about six
hours darkness) that there was not less than ten
thousand men employed in the execution of
it.—At present it is masked, but there is not
the least doubt but the enemy intend it for a
battery.

The enemy have hauled out one of their 17th.
floating batteries being perfectly finished; she
has a very awkward and surprising appearance,
and lies low in the water:—they are very
attentive in equipping the others. Wind W.
arrived a cutter from the westward, and salu-
ted the Admiral with eleven guns, which he re-
turned with three. A tolerable brisk cannon-
ade from the enemy's forts and lines.

About eleven o'clock this forenoon the ene- 18th.
my made a grand display in the bay—seven
barges with crimson awnings proceeded from
Algaziras, attended by twelve gun boats to the
Orange Grove—In half an hour after their arri-
val, they put off in the same order, upon
which the shipping immediately dressed, and
the

1782 the Admiral gave a salute of twenty-one guns.
 Aug. —the other shipping also fired, and the gun
 18th. boats each of them discharged their ordnance.

A frigate got under weigh from *Algaziras*, and under a gentle sail went to meet the barges, which when she had come half way she gave a salute of twenty-one guns, the gun boats fired alternately, until the barges got to *Algaziras*, when another royal salute was given. The barges then went on board the junk ship hauled out yesterday, and a discharge of cannon continued while the visitors remained on board —Having gratified their curiosity in the examination of the floating battery, they went on board the Admiral's ship to dine, and regale themselves, and drank a hearty bumper in success to their undertaking, where they continued till six o'clock in the evening, when, in the same procession they came in, they returned to the pier at the *Orange Grove*, and on their landing, another salute was given.—Some are of opinion that this rejoicing is occasioned by the arrival of a Prince of the Blood, and others that it is the Admiral who is to command the floating batteries.

19th. This forenoon a flag of truce from the *Orange Grove* came over, and rowed along pretty near our line wall, until she came opposite *Ragged-staff*, when one of our boats went out with Captain *Valloton*, of the 56th regiment (chief Aid-de-camp to the Governor) and spoke to her, and soon afterwards returned.—The boat kept very close in with the shore, making a survey of the works, when the *Repulse* (an advanced gun boat) fired a shot as a caution for her to keep her proper distance.—Soon after
 ter

ter Captain *Valloton* returned to the flag of 1782 truce, which brought a handsome present of Aug. fruit and game for the Governor, from Count 19th. *de Artois*, whose arrival in the *Spanish* camp occasioned yesterday's rejoicing.—The floating batteries are rigging with the utmost expedition. The day of trial is very near at hand, I hope we shall acquit ourselves in the defence of this place with honour and success.

This morning our Governor sent out a flag of truce to the enemy, with a return for the present received yesterday. I am confidently told, it consisted of a cask of beef, pork, and butter, a cheese, a puncheon of rum, a sheep and a goat, some poultry, and a quantity of potatoes, "with the General's compliments to the Count, thanking him for his kindness, and assuring him that he did not want any refreshments." This was policy to make the enemy believe that our situation was not so deplorable as they imagined.

Wind E. This morning we observed the 21st. *Eliza* brig that sailed from hence on the 13th, returning from the eastward under a *Spanish* ensign, and also thirteen large boats which we imagine are for the purpose of landing troops; from their size it is not improbable but each of them may contain five hundred men.—Six of the floating batteries are almost rigged—two completely equipped for battle.

This forenoon our batteries poured upon the 22d. enemy's works a considerable discharge of shot, shells, and carcasses, and had the satisfaction to set the enemy's advanced isthmus work on fire, which burnt most furiously for an hour or better. A brisk fire was maintained on both sides

1782 sides with the firmest spirit and bravery, and Aug. the enemy were several times drove off their works, and forced to abandon a battery on the left of *St. Carlos*, termed the *Mabon* battery. We fired from the garrison in the space of an hour, near fourteen hundred rounds—the cannonade continued furious till nine o'clock, when the enemy rather slackened their fire. We had only three men wounded, but judge what loss the foe must have sustained, as they had a body of near two thousand men employed, in endeavouring to extinguish the fire.

23d. The enemy have roofed another floating battery, and are rigging those that are already roofed; one of them appears to have about twenty-six ports on one side. Our batteries keep playing away upon the isthmus, and we have been using every means to fire the enemy's works again, but all ineffectually.

24th. The sand-bag work erected on the 16th instant, consists of four batteries of sixteen guns each. The enemy are busy in nailing down their platforms, and getting all things in readiness to mount the ordnance—They will be able to scour our lines, and advanced posts from this work; they are forming bomb batteries in the rear of the cannon of their advanced batteries; so resolutely determined are they upon the capture of the old Rock.

25th. The enemy had a rejoicing to-day on the sea-side—in the morning at sun-rise, the ships dressed and fired, as did also the island near *Algaziras*—this was repeated again at noon, and at the going down of the sun. The floating batteries are almost ready.

The

The *St. Philip's Castle*, and the ordnance 1782
store shipping that lay in *Rosia Bay*, hauled in Aug.
this morning to the *New Mole*. The bay on 26th.
our side is quite clear, as all our ships are now
within the boom. From the circumstances
of the siege, it is whispered that the seamen
are to be landed, and incorporated into a bri-
gade, to act as soldiers within the walls, un-
der the command of Captain *Curtis* as Colo-
nel. The enemy have eight of their floating
batteries roofed—the day of battle is nigh at
hand.

This morning a deserter came in from *Spain*, 27th.
and brings advice, that the enemy have every
preparation made on the land-side for the as-
sault, and that they are only waiting for the
junk ships, when they mean to attack us in
every quarter—He also says that eight line of
battle ships are expected from *Cadiz*, to act in
conjunction with the *flotantees*. He was taken
prisoner at *Minorca*, by *Duke de Crillon*, and in-
listered into a *French* regiment, but not liking to
fight against his king and country, embraced
the first opportunity of making his escape.

Wind W. Arrived at *Algaziras*, six line of 28th.
battle ships, two xebecs and a cutter. The
ninth floating battery is almost roofed, but is
much smaller than the others.

The deserter that came in yesterday, says,
that on the night of the 16th, he was among
the number that helped to erect the sand bag
work, and from the accounts in the *Spanish*
camp, there was about eleven thousand men
employed to effect it, that had we fired to-
wards the eastern shore, the greatest part must
have been cut off.

The

1782 The crews of the men of war and other
 Aug. shipping in *New Mole* are landed, and employ-
 29th. ed in bringing their stores on shore. The sea-
 men are in good spirits, and swear bitterly
 against the *Dons*.—This little reinforcement
 will be of great service to us. The enemy
 are brisk on the land side.

GARRISON ORDERS.

30th. *The officers and crews of his majesty's ships
 being landed, are to be encamped at Europa, and
 to form the Marine Brigade. Captain Curtis com-
 manding his majesty's ships in the Mediterranean
 is appointed to serve as Brigadier General.*

You would smile to view the tars handling
 their firelocks, and marching full accoutred;
 the boatswain's pipe—all hands aloft,—brace
 the yards,—tacks and sheets, &c. are no longer
 heard,—the glittering beauties of the pa-
 rade engage the attention, while whistling
 winds, and roaring billows are forgotten.
 Thus military equipped, they long for battle,
 to perform their evolutions and manœuvres,
 which on a parade might excite laughter, but
 amidst blazing cannon, and clouds of smoke,
 every awkward appearance will be hid—If they
 prime and load expeditiously, it is all that
 will be required, nor will they need to rest;
 shoulder, or poise.

Yours &c.

P. S. Inclosed are the copies of two letters, said to be
 written by the *Duke de Crillon*, and his Excellency *General
 Elliott*, on the 19th and 20th instant.

Camp of Buenavista, August 19, 1782.

S I R,

HIS Royal Highness *Comte d' Artois*, who 1782
has received permission from the King, Aug.
his brother, to assist at the siege as a volunteer 30th.
in the combined army, of which their most
Christian and Catholic Majesties have honoured
me with the command, arrived in this Camp
the 15th instant. This young Prince has been
pleased in passing through *Madrid*, to take
charge of some letters, which had been sent to
that capital from this, and which are addressed
to persons belonging to your garrison—his
Royal Highness has desired that I would trans-
mit them to you, and that to this mark of his
goodness and attention, I should add the
strongest expressions of esteem for your person
and character; I feel the greater pleasure in
giving this mark of condescension in this au-
gust Prince, as it furnishes me with a pretext,
which I have been anxiously looking for these
two months that I have been in this camp,
to assure you of the high esteem I have con-
ceived for your Excellency, of the immense
desire I feel of deserving yours, and of the
pleasure to which I look forward of becoming
your friend, after I shall have learnt to render
myself worthy the honor of facing you as an
enemy. His Highness the *Duke de Bourbon*,
who arrived here twenty-four hours after
Comte d' Artois, desires also that I should assure
you of his particular esteem.

Permit

1782 Permit me, dear General, to offer you a few
 Aug. little trifles for your table, of which I am sure
 30th. you must stand in need; as I know you live entirely upon vegetables, I should be glad to know what kind you like best. I shall add a few partridges for the gentlemen of your household, and some ice, which I presume will not be disagreeable in the excessive heat of this climate, at this season of the year—I hope you will be obliging enough to accept the small present I send with this letter.

I have the honor to be, &c.

His Excellency General Eliott, &c.

Gibraltar, Aug. 20.

SIR,

I FIND myself highly honoured by your obliging letter of yesterday, in which your Excellency was so kind as to inform me of the arrival in your camp of his Royal Highness the *Comte d'Artois*, and the *Duke de Bourbon*, to serve as volunteers at the siege. These Princes have shewn their judgment in making choice of a master in the art of war, whose abilities cannot fail to make great warriors. I am really overwhelmed with the condescension of his Royal Highness, in suffering some letters for persons in this town to be conveyed from *Madrid* in his carriages. I flatter myself that your Excellency will give my most profound respects

respects to his Royal Highness, and the *Duke de Bourbon*, for the expressions of esteem with which they have been pleased to honor so insignificant a person as I am. 1782 Aug. 30th.

I return a thousand thanks to your Excellency for your handsome present of fruits, vegetables and game, you will excuse me however I trust, when I assure you, that in accepting your present, I have broken through a resolution, which I had faithfully kept since the beginning of the war, and that was, never to receive, or procure by any means whatever, any provisions, or other commodity for my own private use; so that without any preference, every thing is sold publicly here, and the private soldier (if he has money) can become a purchaser as soon as the Governor. I confess I make it a point of honor to partake both of plenty and scarcity in common with my brave soldiers; this furnishes me with an excuse for the liberty I now take of intreating your Excellency not to heap any more favours on me of this kind, as in future I cannot convert your presents to my own private use. Indeed, to be plain with your Excellency, though vegetables at this season are scarce with us, every one has got a quantity proportioned to the labour he has bestowed in raising them: the *English* are naturally fond of gardening and cultivation, and here we find our amusement in it, during the intervals of rest from public duty.

The promise which the *Duke de Crillon* makes to honour me, in proper time and place, with his friendship, lays me under infinite obligations: the interests of our Sovereigns being
once

1782 once solidly settled, I shall with eagerness embrace the first opportunity to avail myself of so precious a treasure.

I have the honour to be, &c.

His Excellency Duke de Crillon, &c.

LETTER XXXVI.

Gibraltar

DEAR BROTHER,

Sept. 1. **T**HE grand action has not yet taken place, though every day adds fresh convincing proofs of a speedy termination. The enemy strenuously exert themselves both by land and sea; they have hauled out five of their floating batteries in a line with the first, having bent their sails, and otherwise rigged them. On the isthmus is a battery almost within a pistol shot, sufficient of itself

To strike with dread a legion of infernals,
When told they must withstand its mighty rage.

In the camp of *Santa Roque*, an army of fifty thousand men parade, not worn out with the heavy toils of war, but healthful and vigorous, while our garrison, deprived of all nourishment, and almost as feeble as old age for want of succour, can muster very few more than five thousand men and boys, including sick, wounded, and disabled, to repulse the efforts

efforts of such a superior force. Lieutenant 1782. *Campbell*, of the *Brilliant*, was privately dis-Sept. 1. patched with letters to *Portugal* from the Governor, to convey to *England*.

But as we're actors—*Europe* the spectators,
 I trust we shall perform in th's great cause,
 As men determin'd to maintain the right
 Of *George* our king, and *Britain's* fame and welfare.
 Although the foe has made a heft'ring boast.
 That each discharge from land and sea we'll find,
 Two thousand shot and shells from guns and mortars,
 Will constantly be show'ring on the garrison.

Wind E. Two *French* line of battle ships, 3d.
 which seemingly stood for the westward, came
 into *Algaziras*, on a frigate's speaking to
 them.

This morning, sixteen large boats came out 4th.
 of the river, and went to the *Orange-Grove* :
 they appear to be for the purpose of landing
 troops, from having a high and thick parapet
 at the head. Seven of the *Spanish* junk ships
 sailed from *Algaziras* to *Orange-Grove* this af-
 ternoon; they had a very stiff breeze from
 S. W. but were two hours in performing the
 distance of four miles. They look very un-
 weildy, and lay deep in the water; three of
 them have two tier of guns.

The enemy's naval force now stands thus :—
 Nine ships of the line; three frigates, four
 xebecs, eight gallies, two cutters, one *French*
 ship twenty guns, nine floating batteries com-
 plete, one ditto almost finished, one bomb-
 O ketch,

1782 ketch, about one hundred gun and mortar-
Sept. boats, besides boats for landing troops.

6th. The enemy have been assiduously employed in mounting guns in their sixty-four gun battery. We have kept almost an incessant fire from the rock-gun upon it, but it being so thick covered with sand, the shot makes very little penetration. An additional field officer is ordered to take post in the lines, and a reinforcement to the *New Mole* guard. The *Corfican* company that were embodied August 4th, are ordered for duty to-morrow. Every one that is able to fire a musquet, or carry a shot, must take post upon any alarm. The tenth floating battery is roofed, and they have begun to rig her ;—a few days more, and then we shall fall to it *ding-dong*.

A floating castle was towed from the river to *Orange Grove* ; upwards of two hundred boats lay at the mouth of the first river. Three *French* polacres arrived from the westward at *Algaziras*, with troops. A *Spanish* deserter came in last night, says, the enemy are only waiting for the Prince of *Nassau*.

7th. The three remaining junk ships at *Algaziras*, have taken in their masts. The enemy have erected stairs on the floating castle arrived at *Orange Grove* yesterday. At day-break this morning, several of the enemy's cruizers appeared off the *Old Mole* ; and for want of sufficient light, the sentinels alarmed the guards, with the arrival of the junk ships. Five line of battle ships, and one of the junkers, proceeded to *Orange Grove* this afternoon ; the latter was three hours on her way.

GARRISON

GARRISON ORDERS.

1782

Sept.

The marine brigade to take Europa advance, and Little-bay guards to-morrow.

Reinforcements are ordered likewise to *Prince's-lines, Landport, Waterport, Main and Ragged-staff* guards.

This morning, Lieutenant-General *Boyd* 8th. took post on the grand-battery (having command of all the batteries) and the necessary arrangements being made from the rock-gun to the *Old-Mole-Head*, we began a furious cannonade of red-hot balls upon the enemy's *Mabon-battery* (mounted with six pieces of ordnance) and other lines of approach, together with a supply of shells and carcasses;—the most intoxicating joy gained possession of the soldiery, and every heart and hand was cheerfully employed; and while gazing crowds who had taken post upon *Andalusia's* hills, beheld the volleys of destruction that flew in showers, and the sad effects that were productive of the red-flaming balls, our men rejoiced, and made a pastime of the dire employ. The foe withstood our fire with intrepidity, until most of their works and the thirteen-gun battery next the bay, were blazing in several places, and strewed over with mangled limbs and dead bodies. Several parties appeared upon the glacis, and in an undaunted manner, tore up the fasciens: some kept pouring of baskets of sand upon the parts that were on fire, and others running to the sea for buckets of water. Thus they stood, while showers of balls fell on every side, and many were observed to be knocked off the

O 2

works.

1782 works. I assure you, it was a horrid scene of Sept. slaughter, and the enemy were constrained to cease their cannonade, to save the remainder of their men. The fire continued in this spirited manner from seven till near one o'clock, during which we had several killed and wounded, among whom were Lieutenant *Boag*, of the Royal Artillery, and Ensign *Gordon*, of the 58th regiment, but not mortally. The battery, which mounted thirteen pieces of cannon, was entirely consumed.

9th. This morning, between four and five o'clock, the enemy discharged between fifty and sixty shells in a volley on the garrison, and immediately after, opened their sixty-four and other batteries (amounting to about one hundred and thirty pieces of cannon and eighty mortars) with the greatest spirit, which we immediately answered. Their sixty-four gun battery was an incessant volley the whole time, which lasted most of the day, and the distance being so short, their shot reached the walls almost as soon as you perceived the flash; the discharge was so quick, that the balls rolled along the streets by dozens; this was by way of retaliation for the unexpected compliment we paid them yesterday. Lieutenant *Wharton*, of the 73d, and several men were wounded. The two floating batteries at *Algaziras*, have got their sails bent.

Wind E. Their line of battle ships, nine in number, viz. seven *Spanish*, and two *French*, accompanied by a xebec and frigate, stretched over in a line from the *Orange Grove* this forenoon, and fired upon the garrison until they passed *Europa*, when they tacked again, and returned

returned firing the same way; they then stood 1782
to the opposite side, where they lay with their Sept.
sails loose till near sun-set, when they again
stretched over, and under a gentle sail directed
their fire to the southward, in the same manner
as before, continuing their course to the east-
ward, at which time their gun-boats came over,
and rowed in a line under the *King's Bastion*,
and began a fire, but our batteries gave them
such a smart reception, that they found it con-
venient to withdraw. The 97th regiment,
which landed last March, are ordered to do
duty.

About one o'clock this morning, the nine 10th.
line of battle ships returned from the eastward,
and fired upon *Europa* and the southward en-
campments: they continued a brisk cannonade
until they came near the *King's Bastion*, when
they stood over to the *Orange Grove* and an-
chored; several seamen at *Europa* and others,
were wounded thereby. They repeated this
manœuvre again this forenoon, but hav-
ing been frequently struck by our shot, they
came to an anchor on their own side, where
we observed two of them repairing.—
From the land side, they also maintain a brisk
cannonade, and their sixty-four gun battery
represents an entire blaze. It is apprehended
that we shall suffer considerably from this
work.

Between nine and ten o'clock this evening, 11th.
the enemy advanced to *Bay-side*, and set fire to
the pallisadoes at that place, which burnt very
freely for some time, when one of them again
advanced, observing it rather decaying, put
fresh fire to those that were not consumed,
notwith-

1782 standing the guards in the lines and at the advanced posts, discharged their musquetry upon him: the gun and mortar-boats came over at the same time, and poured in a brisk salute of shells and shot for above two hours;—some few killed and wounded upon the occasion.

The frigates and shipping within the Boom at *New-Mole*, were this morning scuttled. The enemy are covering the roofs of the junk ships with bags, resembling our sand-bags.

12th. This morning, we perceived a great part of the pallisadoes burnt down, sufficient to admit eight men abreast. From this circumstance, we imagine they will not be long before they make the assault. From the isthmus and forts they keep a constant fire, and this morning, as I came off *Landport Guard*, crossing the *Espanade*, I observed a soldier before me, lying on the ground, and his head somewhat raised; I ran to him, imagining the man had life, and lifted him up, when such a sight was displayed to my view, that I think I shall never forget: a twenty-six pound ball had gone through his body, and his entrails as they hung out from the orifice, were of a most disagreeable resemblance. The shot from the enemy was dropping on every side, and as I found his life was gone, I left him on the same spot, and made the best of my way to the southward. A party of men buried him soon afterwards. The floating batteries at the *Orange Grove* have been taking in stores, &c. yesterday and to-day. The other two also arrived there after a tedious passage from *Algaziras*.

Several boats have been brought out of the rivers to the *Orange Grove*; some of them seem to

to have a kind of cover, which we suppose is 1782
 to shelter them from our musquetry, when Sept.
 they come near the shore. The wind being 12th.
 westerly, we shall expect the junk ships to embrace this opportunity. The enemy have erected stands or booths around the shore, lined with crimson or scarlet, where the nobles and grandees will take their seats.

A report is just circulated, that a fleet is observed in the Gut ; we hope it is the *British* coming to our relief ; every one seems impatient to discover their colours : a gentleman who has been taking a view says they are *French* and *Spanish* men of war ; if so, our fate is inevitable.

The fleet are now distinguishable by the naked eye ; they are ships of force, under *French* and *Spanish* colours standing for the Bay. The garrison are greatly agitated and disappointed in their expectations. Will you believe me, brother, there are forty-four sail of the line, exclusive of the nine already on the station, who are now anchoring between *Algaziras* and the *Orange Grove*. If we can withstand this force, we may bid defiance to all the world. There are ten admirals flags in the fleet.

This afternoon the gun and mortar-boats came daringly on, as much as to say, "*Ye dogs surrender;*" but luckily a shot struck one of them, when she disappeared ; the rest soon afterwards retired. Major *Lewis*, of the Royal Artillery, was wounded this day.

A reinforcement is ordered to *Queen's Lines*, and to the different picquets, nine of which are to take post in town.

That

1782 That our enemies may be defeated, is the
 Sept. sincere and hearty wish of
 12th.

Your loving Brother.

LETTER XXXVII.

Gibraltar.

DEAR BROTHER,

1782 **T**O arm! to arms! is all the cry. The ene-
 Sept. my's floating batteries have weighed an-
 13th. chor, and are now under sail with a fine breeze
 at N. W. Their colours wanton in the wind,
 with gaudy decorations for the battle, while
 thousands of spectators from yon glittering shore
 impatient wait to triumph in their success.
 They have now tacked with their heads to-
 wards the garrison, and what is remarkable,
 they work them without a man being exposed
 or seen.

Half past nine o'Clock.

The floating batteries have just brought to,
 between the *Old-Mole-Head* and *South Bastion*,
 within eight hundred yards of the walls—a
 very bold manœuvre.—Adieu! Victory or
 death will crown our cause. The garrison and
 floatantes are engaged—the ignivomous ap-
 pearance of the Bay and Rock, cannot be de-
 scribed by words.

Half

Half past Eleven at Night. 1782
Sep. 13.

Tired and fatigued, I sit down to let you know, that the conflict is over, after a stubborn and well-fought battle, by which the enemy's ships are on fire. When they came on at nine o'clock this morning, they proceeded in admirable order, successively to their different stations, and as they moored began to fire with the utmost vivacity. The cannonade on both sides soon became truly tremendous, the land batteries co-operating with the junk ships to render the attack more formidable, poured into the garrison prodigious discharges, which the artillery in their enthusiasm disregarded, and particularly directed the ordnance on these wonderful ships of destruction. Our astonishment was raised to the highest pitch, on beholding our heaviest shot rebound from their sides, and an unusual anxiety seemed to possess the mind of all ranks, when a thirteen inch shell, which dropped on the roof of the Admiral's ship, resisted penetration! About twelve o'clock the batteries were supplied with *red hot shot*, the exertions of the men employed at the guns, became more animated, and the fire was maintained with unabating firmness. The casualties of war on most of the batteries, evinced the strength of the opposition; the enemy continuing the fire in good line, and powerfully supported from the isthmus in a flanking direction. Near four hundred pieces of cannon being engaged for several hours, the superiority on either side was doubtful, until towards the evening, when the flag ship was observed to smoke considerably,

1782 bly, and the enemy's sea fire rather slacken.
 Sep. 13 Confusion soon after was apparent on board the *Spanish* ships. Our cannonade became more terrible as our spirits revived with the prospect of success, from the hope of the hot shot bringing the action to a speedy decision. The further exertions necessary to subdue these astonishing machines were truly arduous, and required fortitude and perseverance to effect. The smoke from the flag ship continued to increase, and about seven o'clock we observed the second ship in command, in a similar condition. The fire was then redoubled on the remaining eight, and as the night began to close, we observed with pleasure the scintillation of the balls, as they flew from our cannon. The southernmost ships shortly after made signals of distress—an indistinct clamour, with piercing shrieks, was heard during the little intervals of cessation of the cannonade. The *Spanish* fleet detached their boats to afford assistance to the two ships on fire, several being seen along-side by the flash of the ordnance—from their situation, and the heavy and well directed fire of our artillery, they must have shared abundantly in the general havoc. Having gained an advantage over the enemy, and the men at the guns being almost worn out by fatigue and the labour of the stubborn action, the Governor ordered a part to be relieved by a detachment of one hundred men from the Marine Brigade, under the command of Lieutenant *Trentham* of the navy, leaving officers and non-commissioned officers at the different batteries, to direct the seamen in the mode of firing the hot shot.

If

If you could have peeped over the Rock and 1782
viewed our several employs, you could not Sep. 13
have forbore smiling; those stationed to work
the guns, from the excessive heat of the day,
and the dirt from the gun-powder, resembled
Ethiopians. The sons of *Vulcan* were busy at
the forges, whilst others were allotted to carry
the blazing balls on an iron instrument
made for that purpose, but as these did not furnish
sufficient for the vast supply required at
the batteries, wheel-barrows were procured,
lined with wet sand, and half a dozen thirty-
two pound balls thrown into each. The fatigue
attending the conveyance of shot to the
cannon, was very great, from the heat which
issued from such large bodies of hot iron, together
with wheeling the barrows up the ascent
to the line wall.

What with the arduousness of the work—the
warmth of the weather—the scorching
heat of furnaces, forges, and piles of blazing
balls, besides the clouds of smoke from the
ordnance, an universal thirst prevailed, and a
drink of water (which was all the allowance
for the day) could scarcely be procured. It is
with pleasure I inform you, that an officer*
who commanded a battery, observing the
men almost exhausted with drought, and feeling
for their situation, took the water key
from the post, proceeded to the fountain, and
returned unhurt with a refreshing supply,
through the enemy's intersecant fire.

During the engagement, we had the incon-
solable loss of Captain *Reeves* of the Royal Ar-
tillery,

* Lieutenant Galpin, 72d regiment.

1782 tillery, killed—Captains *Grove*,—*Seward*—
 Sep. 13 Lieutenant *Godfrey*, of ditto, Lieutenant *Whetham*, 58th, and Captain *Alexander M'Kenzie* of 73d regiments, wounded, beside several non-commission officers and men, killed and wounded.

14th.

One o'Clock in the Morning.

The floating batteries have ceased firing, and and one of them has broke out in flames from stem to stern ; several others evince the efficacy of the hot shot. The artillary continue to direct the fire on such as do not outwardly smoke, which they are enabled to do with the utmost precision, by the light thrown on the water by the flames. An officer and eleven men floated in upon a piece of timber, being part of a floating cattle, destroyed by a shell from the garrison, as she was steering to co-operate with the battering ships. Brigadier *Curtis*, with a detachment of seamen, has manned our gun-boats, and drawn them up to flank the enemy, and prevent them from endeavouring to remove such of the ships as are not on fire.

Day Break.

Our Bay appears a scene of horror and conflagration, the foe are bewailing their perilous situation, whilst our gun-boats are busily employed in saving the unhappy victims from surrounding flames and threatening death, although the enemy from their land batteries inhumanly discharged their ordnance upon our
 tars

tars to prevent their affording them relief. 1782
 But never was bravery and humanity more Sep. 14
 conspicuous, for notwithstanding the imminent danger to be apprehended from so daring an enterprize, yet the *British* boats generously steered to these flaming devourers, and dragged the sufferers from their desperate state.

Two of the enemy's boats which attempted to escape, were pursued by Brigadier *Curtis*, but only one was captured.—She surrendered on receiving a round of grape, which covered the boat and must have done mischief.

Six o'Clock.

One ship has this moment exploded, in the midst of our boats, who are humanely relieving a distressed enemy. The explosion was grand and terrible—the wreck spread to a vast extent. and the concussion broke several panes of glass on shore. The greatest uneasiness is felt for the safety of Brigadier *Curtis*, and the boats with him.—The whole are enveloped in a cloud of smoke. Another of the floating batteries has exploded with a more tremendous noise than the first.

To hear the lamentation of the crews,
 The groans, the cries, that through the flames resound,
 Imploring our assistance from the danger
 Of fire and water—ready to devour :
 Words are too weak to give a just description !
 One of their ships blew up with dreadful noise,
 While *Curtis* grappled to her scorching sides,
 The blazing beams, the masts, the yards and carriages
 In the explosion scatter'd in the air,
 And cover'd o'er the sea with smoking wreck.

Seven

1782
Sep. 14

Seven o'Clock.

Our anxiety for the Brigadier and men has ceased—he this moment landed at the *New Mole*, with a body of prisoners taken in the battering ships. One of our gun-boats was sunk by the explosion of the second ship, and a hole was forced through the bottom of the Brigadier's boat, by which his Coxswain was killed and another man wounded. The seamen were under the necessity of leaving numbers to their burning fate, who, terrified at their desperate condition, rent the air with their shrieks, on perceiving the *British* boats make to shore.

The description the *Spanish* prisoners give of the dreadful situation of their countrymen, left on board the junkers, with what they suffered, is unparalleled, I believe, in the annals of the sad effects of war. The boat captured by the Brigadier, had one man killed and several wounded by the round of grape, which compelled her to strike.

A remarkable instance of providence I cannot help mentioning :—A young boy on board one of the floating batteries, (which was almost in an entire blaze,) observing our boats making for shore, got upon the head, wept and cried, and in the *Spanish* tongue called for help ; his entreaties prevailed, and one of our boats, notwithstanding the immense danger which threatened, rowed towards him, which he perceiving, jumped into the sea, and at that very instant the ship exploded, with the greatest part of the hands on board. The boat soon after took the boy up.

Eight

Eight o'Clock. 1782
Sep. 14

Captain *Curtis* has landed at *New Mole* about four hundred prisoners, including officers; some of them miserably wounded and scorched. As the *Spanish* officers came past a furnace at the *New Mole*, in which there was about one hundred red hot balls, and some of them melted with the excessive heat, they shrugged their shoulders, and gave a piteous groan at what their eyes beheld.

Our seamen are bringing the trophies of victory on shore, one has just landed with the royal standard of *Spain* which was intended by the foe to be hoisted on these battlements. The hills and heights were covered with spectators, when the tars began their procession, incessant shouts and repeated acclamations continued from the *Mole* to the *South Parade*, where the Governor and principal officers were congratulating each other on the occasion, to whom they carried the colours, which sensibly pleased our gallant Chief, who joined the crowd in three cheers, and presented the tars with some gold as a reward.

Each heart and soul's inflam'd with highest pleasure,
To view *Iberia's* ensigns in our hands;
While every *Briton* crouds around the standard,
To prize the grand display of glorious conquest.
Some smile—then view—carefs—admire—shake hands,
And, with a heart-felt zeal, recount the battle:
King *George* and victory re-echoes round,
While *Andalusia's* shore weeps at the sound.

Nine

1782
Sep. 14*Nine o'Clock.*

The prisoners are escorted to *Wind-mill Hill*, except the wounded, who are conducted to the Naval Hospital, where every care and tenderness will be shewn them: some of them really were most horrid spectacles; one in particular I cannot help mentioning, who was carried by four men on a hand-barrow—he had received a wound on his face, so that his nose and eyes seemingly were separated, hanging by a piece of skin, and the motion of the men that carried him occasioned its flapping backwards and forwards, much resembling a mask. Though he must have felt the most sensible agony, yet he looked round him with great complacency, as he passed the numerous crouds of people.

Eleven o'Clock.

Of the six ships that were on fire three have exploded. One has almost burnt to the water's edge, and the other two nearly in the same situation. The enemy's land batteries maintain their cannonade upon the garrison, spitting forth their venomd rage, while on the opposite shore confusion and consternation visibly appears. The nobles and grandees who had assembled to view the capture of the place are withdrawing from the *Spanish* camp, to carry the direful news to *Philip's* court; but what will be his surprise, when they announce that the *all-victorious impregnable floatantees* are lost, and that flaming balls effected their ruin.

Our

One ship that was judged not to be on fire, 1782 unexpectedly burst out into flames, and soon Sep. 14 after blew up with great violence. The shock made the walls of the garrison shake.—We hoped to have saved these last two ships as trophies of our glorious success.

Our Governor, to please the soldiery and inhabitants, has directed the *Spanish* standard to be reversed and tied to a gun on the *South Parade*. It must be a galling vexation to our foes to behold their royal flag so ignobly displayed, and made the sport of a multitude.

Four o'Clock in the Afternoon.

The last battery has just exploded off the *Old Mole Head*; our red hot shot had not fired her, and it being found impracticable to warp her in here, it was judged expedient to detach a boat to set her in flames, which accordingly Captain *Gibson* effected without any injury from the land batteries.

Thus finished an action of great magnitude, a defensive victory terminated by seamen equally brave as humane.

The enemy during the day extinguished the fire, by the assistance of engines, which supplied them with a vast quantity of water, but the continual and excessive discharge of red hot balls entirely frustrated their purpose, and they were constrained to desist from the use of water, as it was found that the battering they had received opened the caulking, and let the water run between their decks, instead of the channels that were made in their sides, to receive it, so that they were apprehensive of

P

their

1782 their powder being damaged. The construction of these machines was excellent; for the enemy being sensible that we should fire red-hot balls (though they did not imagine so fast, nor unless the gun was elevated) had judiciously contrived conveyances in the larboard sides, for a continual circulation of water, which was furnished by working of the engines. From the nicest calculation, the floating batteries received upwards of five thousand red-hot balls, of twenty-four and thirty-two pounds weight. Three of the floating batteries burnt to the water's edge, six blew up from the hot shot, and one we set on fire by a *pitch shirt*.

The inclosed are copies of returns, wherein you will find the strength of the garrison, the names of the flotantees, and their strength, with the number of prisoners saved by our boats; and since victory has crowned our arms, with satisfaction I conclude, being impatient for you to hear the account) and beg leave to subscribe myself,

Your loving Brother.

List of the Battering Ships, destroyed by the Red-Hot Shot, September 13th and 14th, 1782.

	<i>Guns.</i>	<i>Men</i>
Pastora, <i>Admiral Don Morena</i> - -	28	700
Talla Piedra, <i>Prince of Nassau</i> - -	28	700
St. Francisco de Paula, <i>1st. Don Langara</i>	26	700
Rosario, <i>Don Francisco Munoz</i> - -	26	700
St. Christoval, <i>Don Frederico Gravina</i>	18	600
St. Francisco		

	<i>Guns.</i>	<i>Men</i> 1782
St. Franciscode Paula 2d. <i>D. Pablola Cosa</i>	9	366 Sept.
Sta. Ana, <i>Don Joseph Angeler</i> - - -	10	350
St. Juan, <i>Don Francisco Guicochea</i> - -	10	400
Principe Carlos, <i>Don Joseph Topete</i> , - -	11	400
Declores, <i>Don Antonio Bassorto</i> - - -	6	280
Total	172	5196

N. B. These guns were mounted on the lar-board side, exclusive of the number on the star-board side.

Prisoners taken by Captain Curtis, from the Battering Ships.

Sea Officers	—	—	3
Land Officers	—	—	3
Cadets	—	—	2
Chaplains	—	—	3
Surgeon	—	—	1
Serjeants, Corporals, & Privates,	216		
Artillerists, Land 2, Sea 5,	—	7	
Marines	—	—	30
Seamen	—	—	81
French Soldiers	—	—	11
Total	—	—	357

Strength of the Garrison, Rank and File, 13th of September, 1782.*

Royal Artillery	—	—	494
12th	—	—	458
P 2			12th.

* Including Corporals and Private Men.

THE SIEGE OF

1782 Sept.	39th	—	—	—	452
	56th	—	—	—	457
	58th	—	—	—	447
	72d	—	—	—	793
	73d	—	—	—	778
	97th	—	—	—	639
	Hardenberg's	—	—	—	344
	Reden's	—	—	—	337
	La Mott's	—	—	—	348
	Artificer Company	—	—	—	84
	Corficans	—	—	—	72
	Total	—	—	—	5703

LETTER XXXVIII.

15th.

Gibraltar.

DEAR BROTHER,

YESTERDAY evening the enemy marched a considerable body of troops from their camp to the *Spanish* lines, prior to which the combined fleet made signal for sailing, and unmoored, by which the garrison were in expectation of an attack during the night; but the *Dons* did not renew the sport. The combined fleet remain at anchor in the Bay, with foretop-sails loose. The land batteries continue the cannonade. Lieutenant *M^cNamara*, of the 72d regiment, and a few soldiers of different

ferent regiments, were wounded by the fire. 1782
 We sent a flag of truce to the enemy, with Sept.
 a statement for the *Duc de Crillon*, of the pri- 15th.
 soners saved by the *British* gun-boats, yester-
 day morning.

From the account received by the prisoners, it appears, that the floating batteries were provided with eight days provision of all kinds, with abundance of wine and brandy. The ammunition for each, was not complete on their sailing, but the supply deficient was to have been forwarded after battering the Rock for twenty-four hours, provided the garrison did not surrender. The ship mounting 90 guns, had only 3000 rounds on board; the single tier ship had no guns in reserve on the starboard side; all the two tier had about twelve mounted on the starboard, and were well supplied with powder, ball, and cased grape shot. The smaller vessels drew about 19, the larger 25 feet water.

This morning, previous to the attack, an aid-de-camp to the *Duc de Crillon*, was sent on board each vessel, who after examining her condition, represented to the crew the glorious undertaking they were about to launch into, and promising in the King's name, the highest reward for their bravery. Each soldier and sailor was to be exempt from all further service, to have a gratuity of fifty dollars and full pay for the remainder of his life. The widows and children of the killed, were to enjoy the same benefit.

The combined fleet still continue at anchor, 18th
 and the enemy's batteries on the land side cannot forget their usual employ. This afternoon,
 the

- 1872 the grenadier company of the thirty-ninth re-
 Sept. giment, escorted the body of a deceased *Span-
 nish* captain (who died of the wounds he re-
 ceived on the thirteenth) to the place of in-
 terment, and fired three vollies over the grave.
 Yesterday we received a flag of truce from
Spain.
- 20th. The enemy are quiet in the Bay, and their
 boats for landing troops still remain at the
Orange Grove; several men wounded by the
 land fire. Ten gun-boats fired about one hun-
 dred rounds on the Rock this morning.
- 23d. Wind W. Arrived a cutter at *Algaziras*;
 several of the *Spanish* officers have been per-
 mitted to return to *Spain*.
- 29th. Very hot fire on both sides; a gun was dis-
 mounted this forenoon in the *Spanish* sixty-four
 gun battery, by a shot from the garrison. Our
 loss this day is, one man killed and nine
 wounded. Major *Horsfall*, of the 72d regiment,
 received a wound by the explosion of a shell.
 Yesterday a criminal was executed at the usual
 place for a burglary.—The *Spanish* army at noon
 were drawn up in a line for near two hours,
 and covered ground to the extent of four
 miles.
- 30th. Wind W. The *Spanish* towers this morning,
 displayed several colours, when the garrison
 attentively watched the Gut, expecting the ar-
 rival of our fleet, but to our great regret,
 only some neutrals appeared. Received a flag
 of truce from the *Orange Grove*.
- Oct. 1. The enemy's gun and mortar boats came
 over, and fired their usual quantity of shot
 and shells, and then retired. Three shells fell
 in the Naval Hospital, but did no injury. The
 The

The garrison played very smartly upon them. 1782
 A *Carfican* came over in the night from *Algazi-* Oct. 1.
ras, in a boat.

A frigate came over from the opposite side 4th,
 this morning, under a flag of truce, and lay
 opposite the *Old-Mole-Head*, upon which a boat
 was detached to receive her. The particulars
 are not known. The enemy continue their
 cannonade.

A flag of truce from the enemy. Twelve 6th.
 fettees arrived from the east at *Algaziras*.

Two *Spanish* launches, under a white flag, 8th.
 came over for the purpose of taking up an
 anchor left by the frigate off the *New-Mole-*
Head on the 4th instant, the Governor having
 given permission for the same. The combined
 fleet have not made any signal to sail, but re-
 main spectators of the land cannonade, which
 is maintained on both sides. All the *Spanish*
 prisoners are gone to *Spain*, except fifty-nine,
 who have enlisted into the *British* service.

This afternoon, a body of troops embarked 10th.
 from the *Orange Grove* on board the men of
 war, from which we conjecture they are tired
 of the expedition, and are going to remove to
 some more successful part. Several signals on
 the tower at *Cabritta*.

Last night, wind N. W. A strong breeze 11th.
 sprung up, drove several of the enemy's line
 of battle ships from their moorings, which
 occasioned a general confusion among the com-
 bined fleet; at day-break this morning, we
 discovered one nearly under the *King's Bastion*,
 and several others within cannon shot. The
King's Bastion began a cannonade upon her,
 when she finding it impossible to bear off,
 struck

1782 struck her colours, and ran ashore off *Ragged-
Octob. staff*, where Captain *Curtis* went, and took
11th. possession of her, and brought the crew to
land. She proves to be the *San Miquel*, of 70
guns, and six hundred and fifty men, com-
manded by Brigadier *Don Juan Morena*. The
others, with some damage and difficulty, got
anchorage on the opposite side. The prisoners
give an account that our fleet is off the coast,
and that the troops which embarked yesterday,
were a reinforcement to the different ships, as
they lay upon a spring cable, determined to
obstruct the entrance of the *British* Squadron.
We hope the storm has not been prejudicial to
our fleet, as they were so near the coast, for
our fate will be determined, if a relief for the
place should be obstructed. Many are of opi-
nion, that had the storm continued with the
same violence for an hour longer, we should
have been in possession of almost one half of
their fleet.

The tower at *Cabritta*, has spread the signal
alarm, but the combined fleet have not shewn
any inclination to go out; three of the enemy's
ships we fired at this morning, have struck
their topmasts. Our batteries have been firing
shells these three hours, upon a ship of the
line at anchor on this side *Fort Negro*, prevent-
ed from removing from her anchorage (where
necessity had compelled her to moor) on ac-
count of the violent breeze; we could not ob-
serve to have done any damage to her.

Wind W. The *Latona* frigate arrived this
evening in *Rosia Bay*, with dispatches for the
Governor, and gives an account that our fleet
consists of thirty-four sail of the line, and a
reinforce-

reinforcement of two regiments for the gar- 1782.
rison. The enemy did not attempt to prevent Octob.
her entrance. 12th.

The *British* fleet, under the command of Lord *Howe*, passed to the eastward, where they are now lying too. It is supposed this experienced Admiral chooses to have sea-room, rather than run the hazard of the *Spanish* fire-ships, which they have in readiness to run in. Came in the *Panther* of sixty-four guns, laden with powder. Several store-ships came in during the night.

The enemy's fleet still occupy the opposite side; seven of their ships are repairing the damages they received in the late storm.

GARRISON ORDERS.

The Governor is extremely happy to communicate to the garrison, the following instructions he has just received from England.

Extract from the Earl of Shelburne, principal Secretary of State.

ST. JAMES'S, 10th July, 1782.

" I AM honoured with his Majesty's commands, to assure you, that not any encouragement shall be wanting to the brave officers and soldiers under your command. His royal approbation of the past, will no doubt be a powerful incentive to further exertions; and I have the King's authority to assure you, that every distinguished mark of
• " emulation •

1782 “ emulation and gallantry, which shall be per-
 Octob. “ formed in the course of the siege by any, even of
 12th. “ the lowest rank, shall meet with ample reward
 “ from his gracious protection and favour.

“ These, his Majesty’s intentions, you will com-
 “ municate in the most public manner, to every
 “ part of your garrison, that they may be perfectly
 “ satisfied, that their Royal Master feels for the
 “ difficulties they are under, admires their glorious
 “ resistance, and will be happy to reward their
 “ merit.”

13th. Lord Howe’s squadron are still to the east-ward, within sight of the garrison, and the combined fleet at anchor at *Algaziras*. The shipping that were damaged in the storm are not yet repaired. The guns and stores of the *San Miquel* have been taken out, to make her float.

This forenoon a frigate came round *Europa Point*, with a red flag upon her fore-top-mast head, and fired a gun to windward, as a signal of defiance; upon which the combined fleet got under weigh, and went out, consisting of forty-five sail of the line. The garrison were greatly delighted; and those whose duty did not confine them to one place, repaired to the heights and look-outs to view the engagement, but the two fleets in a short time were out of sight. Reports were then circulated, that the discharge of cannon was heard, and others, that the flash of guns were seen. One of the enemy’s ships, that came near the Rock, was
 fired

fired at by the garrison and *Panther*, but did 1782
not receive any material damage. The *Panther* Octob.
failed to the eastward. Captain *Curtis* and the
Governor's aid-de-camp, are on board her.
Lieutenant *Lumley*, of the Royal Artillery, and
several men, wounded this day by the land
fire.

Wind E. This forenoon we discovered the 18th.
British fleet standing from the eastward, in good
order, having got the windward, and the
combined fleet in full chace. An anxiety was
discernable in each countenance, and every
eminence was lined with spectators, who gazed
with eager eyes on both fleets, expecting eve-
ry minute the battle to begin. The gratifica-
tion of their wishes could not be obtained, as
Lord *Howe's* squadron was too inferior to en-
gage the enemy, while he could possibly avoid
it. He therefore sent in the men of war (who
had the 25th and 59th regiments on board)
and the transports with provision and stores,
but as soon as these two regiments were re-
ceived by the boats, the men of war imme-
diately joined the squadron, and proceeded
through the Gut in three divisions, the enemy
following them at about a league distance. A
sensible uneasiness now prevailed for the safety
of the *British* squadron; for although we had
received a relief both of men and provisions,
yet the situation of Lord *Howe* engaged too
much of our attention, to leave room to con-
gratulate each other on the happiness of re-
ceiving supplies; however, after both fleets
were out of sight, we began to turn our eyes
to our own affairs, and to listen to the adven-
tures of our late arrived friends. They say
that

1782 that two of our transports fell in among the Octob. combined fleet, in the night, and were captured; but that to the eastward of the Rock the fleets had not shewn any inclination to come to action.

19th. The Bay on the other side is almost defenceless, and *Algaziras* that has of late been the grand rendezvous for shipping, has lost all its glory. The land cannonade is kept up with great vivacity, but it appears to be a folly for the besiegers still to continue the siege. We shall fight like game cocks now; Sir *Charles Noels* succeeds Captain *Curtis* as Commodore on this station. Our shipping that were scuttled in the *New Mole*, being got up, the seamen are returning again to their usual employ, military evolutions being no longer necessary for them.

The *San Miquel* floated this day, and anchored at *New Mole*.

Nov. 4. The gun and mortar-boats visited us, without effecting any considerable damage. Some regiments have marched out of the camp of *St. Roque*. It is expected that the hearty dose we have given them, has greatly lowered their ambition, and constrained them to direct their attention to some other place. A criminal was executed this day. Yesterday was wounded Lieutenant *John M'Kenzie*, of the 7th regiment.

The 25th and 50th regiments that arrived here the 18th of October, are put on the duty strength, which will be a relief to the garrison. The *San Miquel* is in *New Mole*, where the enemy's mortar-boats have endeavoured to damage her. Yesterday they fired several rounds but without effect. Wind

Wind W. Arrived a xebec at *Algaziras*, 1782 the enemy's shipping lay very quiet viewing Nov. our rattling batteries. It is amazing that the 20th. *Spaniards* are not tired of bombarding the place, as they cannot have any hope of taking it.

The gun and mortar-boats came over and 27th. fired at the *San Miquel*, several shells fell in the *New Mole* and about the *Mole Parade*. Some few wounded.

The enemy's fire-ships are gone into the ri- Dec. 2. vers, but the boats for landing troops remain at the *Orange Grove*. The encampment on the right of *Fort Negro* has been struck some time, and the troops marched away. In all probability they have given over the thought of another attack. The land fire is continued with great spirit, by which we have many men wounded. Yesterday arrived the *Achilles* ordnance store ship from *England*.

The gun and mortar-boats came into the 7th. Bay and fired particularly about the *New Mole*, supposed to be intended for the *San Miquel*, it is a matter that vexes them to behold her in our possession, and for this reason they are constantly endeavouring to destroy her. Came in a deserter from the *Spanish* lines.

Wind S. E. A xebec and a galley standing from the eastward, having come pretty near *Europa*, we discharged three shot at them, one went through the rigging of the xebec, but was not observed to do any other damage.

Wind W. Arrived a brig in nineteen days from *Deptford*. The enemy did not offer to interrupt her. Nothing material in the Bay.

This

- 1782 This day a flag of truce was sent by the enemy from *Algaziras*, but the wind continuing
 14th. to blow exceedingly fresh, and a great swell in the bay, we did not perceive her business until she was returning. We then sent out a boat, which waited in the Bay some hours, but no answer was made by the *Spaniards*.
- 15th. This morning we sent the flag of truce out again, but no notice was taken of it at *Algaziras*, or *Orange Grove*; after waiting upwards of two hours in the Bay, it returned unanswered to the *Mole-head*.
- 17th. This morning the *Spaniards* sent over a flag of truce, which was immediately answered from garrison. The business is not made public.
- 18th. About ten o'clock this forenoon, 27 gun and mortar-boats came over, and fired for near two hours, directed towards the *New-Mole*, supposed with an intention to destroy the *San Miguel*; a thirteen-inch shell dropped into her, and exploded between decks; killed four, and wounded eleven men, but did not do any material damage to the ship. Eight of the garrison gun-boats sallied out within half-gun shot of the enemy, and kept them off, while the southward batteries covered them in advancing.
- 22d. This morning a *Spanish* flag of truce brought over upwards of one hundred women and children, taken on board a transport, with the baggage belonging to the 25th and 59th regiments. The women says, the *Spaniards* treated them with great humanity and attention.
- 25th. This afternoon the enemy's gun and mortar boats, arranged in two divisions, began a cannonade and bombardment upon the garrison;
 Sir

Sir *Charles Noels* immediately manned our gun 1782
boats, and headed them into the Bay, where Dec.
a spirited fire was kept up for upwards of two
hours. The batteries on the isthmus and lines
kept pouring in a liberal discharge at the same
time. The enemy threw many shells and shot
on shore.

On the sea-side we are only now and then 31st.
interrupted, but the land batteries keep con-
stantly roaring. We in complaisance return the
favour, nor are we any ways deficient in num-
ber. This year has finished with glorious suc-
cess on our side, in gallantly repulsing our com-
bined and determined enemies; and should
they think proper to pay another visit, I hope
our arms will prove equally victorious. May
the new year be propitious, and establish a
permanent tranquility, that we may partake
of the blessings of Providence, from which
we have been upwards of three years de-
prived.

I am, Dear Brother,

Your's &c.

END OF THE YEAR 1782.

LETTER XXXIX.

1783
Jan. 1.

DEAR BROTHER,

Gibraltar.

THE new year has began, much the same as the last finished: volleys of shot and shells hourly discharged from the *Spanish* works upon the ruins of the town, by which we have sometimes a few killed and wounded. Lieutenant *Holloway*, of the Engineers, received a wound upon the *Hill Batteries*, this day.

The *Spaniards* have renewed their former vigilance in the Bay; their naval force has been distributed, some to *Cabritta-Point*, others to *Ceuta*, and a few cruising to the eastward and westward. What hope of taking the Rock, can induce them to continue the cannonade and prevent succours from arriving.

4th. This afternoon a squadron of gun-boats to the number of thirty-two, with a few mortar-boats, came over from *Algaziras*, and fired for about an hour and a half, chiefly directed to the *New Mole*.

Our gun-boats were quickly manned by the tars, and fired with great spirit and good effect, the land batteries co-operating with them. One of the *Spanish* gun-boats was sunk by a shell from the garrison, when the *Dons* considered a removal necessary.

9th. Wind W. This forenoon a signal was made on the tower at *Cabritta Point*, when two galleys went out from *Algaziras*. A sail appeared under the *Barbary* shore; the galleys soon stretched

stretched across, and fired two shots, when she 1783
surrendered to the *Dons*; she appeared but a
small settee. The gun and mortar boats visit-
ed us, but happily no lives were lost—two sol-
diers lost their legs by their fire.

Between five and six o'clock this morning, 10th.
the *Spanish* gun and mortar-boats came over
and fired, as usual, towards the *New Mole*.
Several of the shot and shells fell upon the red
sands, where the men were paraded for guard.
The Governor to divert their attention from
the danger, walked through the ranks, con-
versing with the soldiery, while the Town-
Major formed the different guards, which are
mounted by detachments from each regiment.
A few accidents happened in the garrison, but
not one person killed.

This being the anniversary of Her Majesty's 18th:
birth day, the royal standard was hoisted, and
a *salvo* fired at the enemy's works, with shot.
The *Spaniards* made a very quick and spirited
return. All quiet in the Bay.

Wind E. Last night arrived a settee from 25th
Tetuan, with poultry the price of which is
greatly enhanced. They bring word, that
the court of *Spain* are greatly, dissatisfied with
the length and ill success of the siege. This
forenoon a soldier was hanged for theft, and
died with little emotion.

The gun and mortar-boats continue their 26th.
firing from the Bay. They discharged under
a heavy cannonade from the garrison, between
two and three hundred rounds, and then re-
tired.—Some soldiers at the southward,
wounded.

Q

This

1783 This morning the *Brilliant* frigate, hauled
Jan. 29 out of *New Mole*, and anchored in *Rofia Bay*.

This afternoon thirteen mortar and sixteen gun-boats came over, and began an attack about five o'clock. Our gun-boats went into the Bay to meet them, and gave them a spirited reception, the *Brilliant* frigate, and garrison co-operating. The enemy killed two men and wounded fourteen before they retreated. Second Lieutenant *Raffalio*, of the *Corfican* Company, was wounded. We fired some red hot shot from elevated guns, which reached the *Spanish* camp.

30th. Four gun-boats came over this morning, and fired six rounds of shot at the *Brilliant* frigate. The garrison fired a few shells which burst in the air, over the gun-boats, which made them quit their pastime. The *Spaniards* have not ceased their land cannonade, which at best is but a wasteful expenditure of their ammunition, as the town being destroyed, that object can no longer excite their attention.

I am, dear Brother,

Your's, &c.

LETTER

LETTER XL.

Gibraltar.

DEAR BROTHER,

THIS morning we received (by a flag of 1783
 truce) intelligence of the most joyful and Feb. 3
 enlivening nature, which for some time, belief
 appeared doubtful; but after a few hours sus-
 pense, we had the happiness of being in pos-
 session of the particulars, brought by the *Span-
 ish* flag boat. The *Duc de Crillon* has sent his
 compliments to General *Elliott*, acquainting
 him that the different courts had agreed upon
 a cessation of hostilities, and that the pre-
 liminary articles of peace would shortly be
 signed. The garrison, enraptured with the
 sound, spread the harmonious tidings, and in
 the evening all firing ceased on our side, agree-
 able to an order sent by his Excellency the
 Governor to the different posts. The enemy's
 cannonade became silent in the afternoon.—
 During the night we fired a few light balls in
 the isthmus, to discover the situation of the
 enemy.

I scarce know how to begin upon a subject
 so truly interesting and captivating. Our situa-
 tion is changed from noise and confusion, to
 calm serenity. The atmosphere that was con-
 tinually disturbed with flames and smoke, is
 now illumined with variegated brightness;
 the stars that have been so long eclipsed, now
 shine with their wonted splendor; and the
 bespangled rays of *Aurora*, with resplendent
 lustre again adorn each hill and height, that
 for upwards of eighteen months, has only been

Q 2

distinguishable

1783
Feb. 3. distinguishable by the flashing of pieces of ordnance. Our sudden change from war to peace, the tranquillity that presides over the battered Rock, and *Andalusian* shore, so powerfully affects all ranks in the garrison, that to give you the delineation, would be a task for an able writer. The power of oratory, the most persuasive eloquence, would fall infinitely short in describing our happiness and amazement. Will you believe me in asserting, that every post last night appeared peculiarly solitary, by the silence which all around prevailed, and the hours of slumber seemed uneasy, for want of that martial noise, to which we have been so long accustomed.

I shall now proceed to give you some account concerning the effect upon our late determined antagonists, who seem highly to participate in the blessings of peace.

They appeared in crowds this morning upon the isthmus works, evincing every demonstration of the most heart-felt and lively joy, sending forth unfeigned and rapturous congratulations. The long wished-for sound of peace, re-echoes from shore to shore, from hill to hill, from rock to rock, and every tongue is filled with the blissful melody. The *Spanish* officers at noon came underneath our lines, bowing to the guards, assuring them that an amicable peace had actually taken place.

Our Governor has not made any reduction in the number of the guards, not knowing how far the stratagems of war might operate, but waits until the royal declaration arrives from *England*, when every testimonial will be made as a thanksgiving to our great
Creator;

Creator, for the restoration of the invaluable 1783
and inestimable blessings of peace. Feb. 3

Arrived a flag of truce from *Orange Grove* ;
says that the articles of peace are signed.

Arrived a flag of truce with letters from *Duc* 5th.
de Crillon, specifying the orders received from
Madrid, to withdraw the troops and cruizers.

Received another flag of truce with a bag 6th.
of letters. This forenoon a vessel belonging
to Merchant *Lynch*, sailed out of the *Mole*, and
proceeded past *Cabritta* unmolested. The *Spaniards*
are withdrawing their stores from the
lines.

An aid-de-camp to the Governor, went out 8th.
by land, and dined with a *Spanish* officer in the
camp ;—in the evening he returned.

Arrived the General *Howe* ordnance store- 9th.
ship, and three small vessels from *Portugal* ;—
they heard nothing of the peace.

A *Spanish* boat this morning came over from 13th.
Orange Grove, with sheep, fowls, and eggs.
The Governor ordered them to sell their goods
immediately, and depart.

This day we received a parley from the 20th.
lines, with a confirmation of the peace.

This day arrived Sir *Roger Curtis*, in the March
Thetis frigate, with the preliminary articles of 10th.
peace, and a ribbon the order of the Bath, for
his Excellency General *George Augustus Elliott*.

I enclose you the following Returns of kill-
ed, wounded, &c. which you may depend
upon being correct ; and I hope in a short time
personally to assure you, that

I am, Dear Brother,

Sincerely Yours,

RETURN

Of the Killed and Wounded in the undermentioned Regiments,

From the 12th of April, 1781,—the Day the Bombardment commenced, to the 3d of February, 1783.

Regiments	Killed.				Wounded.				Died of Wounds.				Recovered of wounds.			
	Officers	Serjeants	Drummers	Rank & File	Officers	Serjeants	Drummers	Rank & File	Officers	Serjeants	Drummers	Rank & File	Officers	Serjeants	Drummers	Rank & File
Roy. Arti.	2	1	0	44	8	4	1	126	0	0	0	7	8	4	1	119
12	1	3	1	13	3	4	7	109	0	0	0	9	3	4	7	100
25	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	8	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	7
39	1	3	1	15	4	5	1	71	1	1	0	5	3	4	1	66
56	0	2	1	16	4	3	0	72	0	1	0	1	4	2	0	64
58	1	1	0	12	2	3	3	73	0	0	0	4	2	3	3	69
59	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	18	0	0	0	4	0	0	1	14
72	0	2	0	35	3	15	1	178	0	2	0	18	3	13	1	160
73	0	0	0	28	6	7	1	125	0	1	0	17	6	6	1	108
97	0	0	0	7	0	4	2	51	0	0	1	6	0	4	1	45
Reden's	0	2	0	7	1	1	0	44	0	0	0	4	1	1	0	40
La Mott's	0	1	0	16	0	3	0	48	0	0	0	6	0	3	0	42
Sydow's	0	2	0	9	1	7	0	55	0	0	0	5	1	7	0	50
Artificers	0	1	0	6	3	3	0	26	0	0	0	0	3	3	0	26
Marine Bri.	0	1	0	2	0	2	0	9	0	0	0	1	0	1	9	8
Corficans.	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
Total	5	19	3	193	36	62	17	1013	1	6	1	95	35	56	16	918

RETURN

R E T U R N

Of the Enemy's firing against the Garrison.

From their Land Batteries	Shot.	Shells.	Total.
1781, From 12th April, to 31st Dec.	100841	29296	130137
1782, From 1st Jan. to 31st Dec.	73792	38239	112031
1783, From 1st Jan. to 3d Feb.	1423	825	1947
Total Land Fire	175755	68360	244115
Fired from their Gun and Mortar Boats	6775	7498	14273
Total	182530	75858	258388

Expended by the Garrison, from 12th September, 1779, to the 3d of February, 1783.

	Barrels.	lb.	oz.
Powder	7651	160	15
Shells		129,370	
Shot		57,160	
Grape		12,684	
Carcasses		926	
Light Balls		689	
Total		200,829	

-GIBRALTAR,

THE SIEGE OF

GIBRALTAR, 23d April, 1783.

The Garrison being drawn up, conformable to the Orders for this Day, General Elliott addressed the Troops in the following Manner, previous to his being invested with the Order of the Bath.

GENTLEMEN,

“ I HAVE assembled you this day, in order that the officers and soldiers may receive, in the most public manner, an authentic declaration transmitted to me by the Secretary of State, expressing the high sense his Majesty entertains of your meritorious conduct in the defence of this Garrison.

“ The King’s satisfaction upon this event was soon divulged to all the world, by his most gracious Speech to both Houses of Parliament.

“ The House of Lords and the House of Commons, not only made the suitable professions in their address to the Throne, but have severally enjoined me to communicate their unanimous thanks by the following resolutions.*

“ No

* *House of Lords, 13th Dec. 1782.*

“ Resolved, *Nemine Dissentiente*, the Lords Spiritual and Temporal in Parliament assembled, That this House doth highly approve of, and acknowledge the services of the officers, soldiers, and sailors, lately employed in the Defence of Gibraltar.”

House of Commons, 12th Dec. 1782.

“ Resolved, *Nemine Contradicente*, That the thanks of this House be given to the officers, soldiers, and sailors, lately employed in the Defence of Gibraltar.”

“ No army has ever been rewarded by
“ higher national honours, and it is well
“ known how great, universal, and spontaneous were the rejoicings throughout the
“ kingdom upon the news of your success:—
“ these must not only give you inexpressible
“ pleasure, but afford matter of triumph to
“ your dearest friends and latest posterity. As
“ further proof how just your title is to such
“ flattering distinction at home, rest assured
“ from undoubted authority, that the nations
“ of Europe, and other parts are struck with
“ admiration of your gallant behaviour, even
“ our late resolute, and determined antagonists,
“ do not scruple to bestow the commendations due to such valour and perseverance.”

“ I now most warmly congratulate you
“ on these united and brilliant testimonies of
“ approbation; amidst such numerous, such
“ exalted tokens of applause, forgive me,
“ faithful companions, if I humbly crave your
“ acceptance of my grateful acknowledgments.”

“ I only presume to ask this favour, as
“ having been a constant witness of your submission to the greatest hardships—your
“ matchless spirit and exertions, and on all
“ occasions your heroic contempt of every
“ danger.”

Estimate

THE SIEGE OF

Estimate of the various Articles, and their Average prices, during the Blockade and Siege of Gibraltar, from 21st June 1779, to 3d February, 1783.

Exchange at 39d. the dollar, being the Average upon the whole.

	Gib. cur.	Eng. sterl.
	dls. rls. qs.	l. s. d.
Veal, per pound	1 4 0	0 4 10h
A calve's head and feet	10 4 0	1 14 1h
A calve's pluck	4 4 0	0 14 7h
Mutton, per pound	1 4 0	0 4 10h
A sheep's* 5th and hind q. fold for 48.	0 0 0	7 10 0
A sheep's head and feet	4 4 0	0 14 7h
A sheep's pluck	2 4 0	0 8 1h
Beef, per pound	1 4 0	0 4 10h
A bullock's head without a tongue	7 4 0	1 3 4h
A bullock's tongue	2 4 0	0 8 1h
A bullock's liver, per lb.	0 3 0	0 1 3
Fresh tripe, per lb.	1 0 0	0 3 3
Salt beef, per lb.	0 3 0	0 1 3
Salt pork, per lb.	0 3 0	0 1 3
Fresh pork, per lb.	1 0 0	0 3 3
A hog's pluck	4 4 0	0 14 7h
Goat, per lb.	1 2 0	0 4 1
A goat's pluck	2 0 0	0 6 6
A goat's head	2 4 0	0 8 1h
A turkey	15 0 0	2 8 9
A goose	9 0 0	1 10 4
A couple of ducks	6 6 0	1 1 11h
A pair of fowls	6 6 0	1 1 11h
A pair of pigeons	3 0 0	0 9 9
Flour, per lb.	0 3 0	0 1 3
Bread, per lb.	0 4 0	0 1 7h
Salt Butter, per lb.	1 4 0	0 4 10h
Cheese, per lb.	1 4 0	0 4 10h
Rice, per lb.	0 3 0	0 1 3
Loaf Sugar, per lb.	0 3 0	0 7 1
Tea, per lb.	14 0 0	2 5 6
Common Candles, per lb.	0 6 0	0 2 5
A hen's egg	0 1 8	0 0 7h
A pint of milk	0 3 0	0 1 3
Potatoes, per lb.	0 6 0	0 2 5
Onions, per lb.	0 6 0	0 2 5

* A fifth signifies the tail, which is as large as any one of the quarters.—This occasions their being called Five-Quarter Sheep.—Their growth is but small.

A SHORT HISTORY

AND

DESCRIPTION of GIBRALTAR.

THE first name by which this mountain was known was that of *Mons Calpe*, and it continued to be so called till the incursions of the *Arabs* in the year 713. It is not my intention to explore the dark history of this famous Rock; it is buried in obscurity, or involved in doubt. Historians say, that it was possessed by the *Scythians* at the first settlement of that country. When the all-conquering *Romans* reduced *Iberia*, this mountain afforded a temporary asylum to the *Bæticans*; but their resistance was vain, and a *Roman* settlement was made to the west of *Calpe*, which bore the name of *Julia Traducta*. The *Carthaginians* seized on all *Bætica*, but it was recovered by *Lucius Licinius Lucullus*, and *Calpe* remained in the possession of the *Romans* until they were ultimately driven out of all *Spain* by the *Westrogoths* in 568. A domestic quarrel introduced the *Arabs* into *Spain* in the year 713. The mountain then obtained the name of *Jibal Tarik*, or *Tarik's Mountain*, *Tarik* being the chief under whom the incursion was made; this

this is declared to be the origin of the name, which by corruption of sound and orthography, is now *Gibraltar*.

It has undergone no fewer than thirteen sieges.

In 1310 *Alonzo Perez de Guzman* first took it from the *Infidels*, which so enraged them, that that they murdered their king, *Mahomet*.

The second siege was in 1316, when *Ismael*, king of *Grenada*, in vain attempted to retake it.

The third commenced in February 1332, under *Abamelique*, when the *Spaniards*, after enduring almost intolerable fatigue, and subsisting for weeks on the leather of their shields, were starved into a surrender in the middle of June.

The fourth siege was begun by *Don Alonzo XI.* in the end of the same month, he having been within four days march of the place on its surrender. This investment was attended with uncommon circumstances of hardship, both to the besieged and besiegers: the latter were blocked up in the neck of *Gibraltar* by the king of *Grenada* and *Abamelique*, who marched with an army to the relief of the garrison. At last, on the 20th of August a peace was concluded, and the siege was raised.

Don Alonzo again set down before it in the summer, 1349, and during this, which was the fifth siege, and which continued for nine months, the garrison was reduced to great straits; but *Don Alonzo* was carried off by the plague in March, 1350.

The Emperors of *Fez* neglecting their *Spanish* territories, *Juzal*, third king of *Grenada*, took

took it in 1410. This was the sixth siege, but the next year the inhabitants drove out the conquerors. and put themselves under the protection of *Muley Beuld*, Emperor of *Fez*.

Juzaf besieged it in form the January following with a fleet and army, and the garrison was starved into a surrender.—This was the seventh siege.

The eighth siege was in 1438, when *Don Emique de Guzman* attacked it with a strong force, but was defeated by the *Moors*, and drowned. His son, however, brought off the remains of his army.

In 1462, the son returned with greater force, and took the place, which ever since has remained in possession of the christians.—This was the ninth siege.

The tenth was in 1704, when it was torn from the *Spaniards* by the *English*. under the command of Sir *George Rooke*.*

The *Spaniards* were sorely hurt with the loss of this most important station. They knew its consequence, and, added to the value conferred by its strength and situation, the circumstance

* The Prince of *Hesse* had landed on the isthmus with eighteen hundred men, but the steepness of the Rock made an attack on that side impracticable. The *British* fleet fired upwards of 15000 shots, without effecting a surrender, when a body of sailors, on the 4th of August, in a merry-making excursion, happened to row close under the *New Mole* in their boats, (the cannon of which must have sunk them had any been fired,) were encouraged to attempt landing; and being successful, they mounted the *Mole*, and hoisted a red jacket as a signal of possession. Boats, with troops and seamen, were immediately detached to shore, and in a short time they got possession of the eight gun battery in the *Line Wall*, which caused the town to surrender.

cumstance of giving to an ancient enemy such a footing in the kingdom, was a mortification which the proud spirit of the *Spaniards* could not bear. An expedition was immediately formed, and the eleventh siege commenced under the *Marquis de Villadarius*. The siege lasted four months; and finding all their efforts, though vigorous, were vain, it was abandoned in 1705.

Great Britain, fully sensible of its importance, hath maintained it at an immense cost, and hath taken such advantage of its natural powers in disposing the works that have been raised, as to make it indubitable the strongest fortification in the universe. *Spain* has observed this conduct with unavailing regret. The recovery of this post has at one time given them subject for declaring a war, and at another time has been claimed as the price of peace. They ceded it at the peace of *Utrecht* without grace, for they stipulated for a right of pre-emption in case *Great Britain* should dispose of it. Many negotiations were opened; many offers of purchase, and of places to be exchanged for it; but all were fruitless. The *English* nation were justly jealous of the treasure, and if at one time ministers were disposed or were cajoled to squander it by negotiation, the bargain was prevented by the vigilance of parliament, and the spirit of the people. It was made the subject of warm discussion in the Lower House in the year 1727. These secret manœuvres proving abortive, the *Spaniards* sat down before *Gibraltar* on the 13th of February, in 1727; but this, which was the 12th siege, and under the conduct of the
Marquis

Marquis de la *Torras*, was like the former, spirited and fruitless.

The thirteenth siege was begun in 1779, and continued incessantly until 1783, a period of almost four years. On the first investment, Admiral *Don Barcello* blocked the port by sea, and General *Don Juan de Mendoza*, cut off the communication by land. A short time after, he was recalled for particular reasons, and General *Alvery* appointed, who governed until the *Duc de Crillon* arrived from *Minorca* (after its capture) when he was invested with the command, and continued in it till the conclusion of the siege. The garrison have, by their perseverance, presented to Europe a picture of the most gallant defence. They have resisted the efforts of the most numerous and best equipped band of besiegers that, perhaps, ever beset any fortress. The *Spaniards* have bent every endeavour to this single object. They have starved their marine, and neglected their power in every other quarter of the globe, that they might employ all their resources, and direct all their attention to this great end. Their works have been immense, their industry indefatigable. They have endeavoured to accomplish its reduction by the constancy of their attack; by their numbers they have been able to make their operations incessant, that the garrison might have no relaxation from fatigue, no opportunity for repose. All their struggles, however, have been vain. The garrison was annually relieved with provisions, though the want of store-houses tended greatly to make it uneatable; and when they rushed on confident of victory, had the glory to gain

gain immortal renown, by repulsing so superior a force, under the immediate eye of the principal personages, nobles, and grandees of *Spain*, who had assembled to view the capture of the important fortress.

MEMOIRS

MEMOIRS of the LIFE and MILITARY
SERVICES of General Sir GEORGE AU-
GUSTUS ELIOTT.

SIR *George Augustus Eliott*, the brave and gallant defender of *Gibraltar*, is the son of the late Sir *Gilbert Eliott* of *Stobbs*, in *Roxburghshire*. The antient and honourable family of *Eliott* of *Stobbs*, as well as the colateral branch of *Eliott* of *Minto*, in the same county, and of *Eliott* of *Port Eliott*, in *Cornwall*, are originally from *Normandy*. Their ancestor, Mr. *Aliott*, came over with *William* the Conqueror, and held a distinguished rank in his army. There is a traditionary anecdote in the family relating to an honourable distinction in their coat of arms, which, as it corresponds with history bears the appearance of truth. When *William* set foot on the *English* land, he slipped and fell on the earth. He sprang up again and exclaimed, that it was a happy omen—he had embraced the country of which he was to become Lord. Upon this *Aliot* drew his sword, and swore by the honour of a foldier, that he would maintain, at the hazard of his blood, the right of his Lord to the sovereignty of the earth which he had embraced. On the event of conquest, King *William* added to the arms of *Aliot*, which was a baton, or, on a field azure, and the arm and sword, as a crest, with the motto, *per saxa, per ignes, fortiter, et recte*. We mention this as a curious fact delivered down and recorded as a memorial of their antiquity.

Sir *Gilbert Eliott* of *Stobbs*, had nine sons and two daughters. The present Gen. *Eliott* is the youngest son, and he is now the only

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surviving

surviving one. His eldest son, Sir *John Elliott*, left the title and estate to his son, the present Sir *Francis Elliott*, who is therefore nephew to the General.

Sir *George Augustus Elliott* was born about the year 1718, and received the first rudiments of his education under a private tutor retained at the family seat. At an early age he was sent to the University of *Leyden*, where he made a rapid progress in classical learning, and spoke with elegance and fluency the *German* and *French* languages. Being designed for a military life, he was sent from thence to the celebrated *Ecole Royale du genie militaire*, at *La Fere* in *Picardy*. This school was rendered the most famous in *Europe* by means of the great *Vauban*, under whom it was conducted. It is now under the management and care of the Comte d'*Horroville*. Here it was that the foundation was laid of that knowledge of tactics in all its branches, and particularly in the arts of engineering and fortification, which has so greatly distinguished this officer since. He completed his military course on the continent by a tour, for the purpose of seeing in practice what he had been studying in theory. *Prussia* was the model for discipline, and he continued for some time as a volunteer in that service. Such were the steps taken by the young men of fashion in that day to accomplish themselves for the service of their country. Many of his cotemporaries were then firmly engaged, nobly abandoning the enjoyment of ease and luxury at home, for the opportunity of seeing actual service.

Mr.

Mr. *Elliott* returned in the 17th year of his age, to his native country of *Scotland*, and was in the same year, 1735, introduced by his father, Sir *Gilbert*, to Lieut. Col. *Peers* of the 23d regiment of foot, or Royal *Welch* Fuzileers, then lying in *Edinburgh*. Sir *Gilbert* presented him a youth anxious to bear arms for his King and country. He was accordingly entered a volunteer in that regiment, and continued for a twelve-month or more. At this time he gave a promise of his future military talents, and shewed at least that he was a soldier *au cœur*. From the 23d he went into the engineer corps at *Woolwich*, and made great progress in that study, until his uncle, Col. *Elliott*, brought him in as Adjutant of the second troop of horse grenadiers. In this situation he conducted himself with the most exemplary attention, and laid the foundation of that discipline which has rendered those two troops the finest corps of heavy cavalry in *Europe*, the *Hanoverian* body guards, and the musqueteers of *France* not excepted. With these troops he went upon service to *Germany* in the war before last, and was with them in a variety of actions. At the battle of *Dettingen* he was wounded. In this corps he first bought the rank of Captain and Major, and afterwards purchased the Lieutenant Colonelcy from Col. *Brewerton*, who succeeded his uncle. On arriving at this rank he resigned his commission as an engineer, which he had enjoyed along with his other rank, and in which service he had been actively employed very much to the service of his country. He had received the instructions of the famous engineer *Bellidor*,

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and

and made himself compleatly master of the science of gunnery. Had he not disinterestedly resigned his rank in the engineer department, he would now, by regular progression, have been at the head of that corps. Soon after this he was appointed an Aid-de-camp to King *George II.* and was already distinguished for his military skill and discipline. In the year 1759 he quitted the second troop of horse grenadier guards, being selected to raise, form, and discipline the first regiment of light horse, called after him, *Elliott's*. As soon as they were raised and formed, he was appointed to the command of the cavalry in the expedition on the coasts of *France*, with the rank of Brigadier-General. After this he passed into *Germany*, where he was employed on the staff, and greatly distinguished himself in a variety of movements, while his regiment displayed a strictness of discipline, activity, and enterprize, which gained them signal honour; and indeed they have been the pattern regiment; both in regard to discipline and appointment, to the many light dragoon troops that have, since that period, been raised in our service. From *Germany* he was recalled for the purpose of being employed as second in command in the memorable expedition against the *Havannah*. It was possible to find an officer in the sunshine of the court to whom, under the patronage of a Prince, the trappings of the chief command might be given; but an *Elliott* was wanting to act, as well as an *Albemarle* to shine, and for him they were forced to go to the dusty plains of *Germany*. The circumstances of that conquest are well known. It seems as if

if our brave veteran had always in his eye the gallant *Lewis de Velasco*, who maintained his station to the last extremity, and when his garrison were flying from his side, or falling at his feet, disdained to call for quarter, but fell gloriously exercising his sword upon his conquerors.

Our readers will pardon us for the recital of a short anecdote, which occurred immediately after the reduction, as it shews, that in the very heat and outrages of war, the General was not unmindful of the rights of humanity. He was particularly eminent among the conquerors of the *Havannah*, for his disinterested procedure, and for checking the horrors of indiscriminate plunder. To him, therefore, appeals were most frequently made. A Frenchman who had suffered greatly by the depredations of the soldiery, made application to him, and begged, in bad *English*, that he would interfere to have his property restored. The petitioner's wife, who was present, a woman of great spirit, was angry at the husband for his intercession, and said, *Comment pouvez-vous demander du grace a un homme qui vient vous depouiller? N'en esperez pas.* The husband persisting in his application, his wife grew more loud in the censure, and said, *vous n'etes pas Francois!* The General who was busy writing at the time, turned to the woman, and said, smiling, *Madame ne vous, echauffez pas, ce que votre mari demande lui sera accorde!* Oh faut-il pour surcroit de malheur, exclaimed the woman, *que le barbare parle le Francois.* The General was so very much pleased with the woman's spirit, that he not only procured them their property

property again, but also took pains to accommodate them in every respect. This has been through life the manly characteristic of the General. If he would not suffer his troops to extend for the sake of plunder (the ravages of war) he never impoverished them by unjust exactions. He never would consent that his Quarter-Master's place should be sold, "not only," says he, "because I think it the reward of an honest veteran soldier; but also, because I could not so directly exercise my authority in his dismissal, should he behave ill."

On the peace, his gallant regiment was reviewed by his Majesty in *Hyde Park*, when they presented to the King the standards they had taken from the enemy. The King gratified with their high character, asked General *Elliott*, what mark of his favour he could bestow on his regiment equal to their merits. He answered, that his regiment would be proud if his Majesty should think, that, by their services, they were entitled to the distinction of *Royals*. It was accordingly made a royal regiment, with this flattering title. *The 15th or King's Royal Regiment of Light Dragoons*. At the same time, the King expressed a desire to confer a mark of his favour on the brave General; but he declared, that the honour and satisfaction of his Majesty's approbation of his services was his best reward.

During the peace he was not idle:—his great talents in the curious branches of the military arts, gave him ample employment; and in the year 1775, he was appointed to succeed General *A'Court* as Commander in Chief of the

the forces in *Ireland*. But he did not continue long in this station ; not even long enough to unpack all his trunks ; for, finding that interferences were made by petty authority derogatory to his own, he resisted the practice with becoming spirit ; and not chusing to disturb the government of the sister kingdom, on a matter personal to himself, he solicited to be recalled, and accordingly was so, when he was appointed to the command of *Gibraltar*, in a fortunate hour for the safety of that important fortress. The system of his life, as well as his education, peculiarly qualified him for this trust. He is, perhaps, the most abstemious man of the age. His food is vegetables, and his drink water. He neither indulges himself in animal food nor wine. He never sleeps more than four hours at a time ; so that he is up later and earlier than most other men. He has so inured himself to habits of hardiness, that the things which are difficult and painful to other men, are to him his daily practice, and are rendered pleasant by use. It could not be easy to starve such a man into a surrender, nor easy to surprize him. His wants are easily supplied, and his watchfulness beyond precedent. The example of the Commander in Chief in a besieged garrison, has a most persuasive efficacy in forming the manners of the soldiery. Like him, his brave followers came to regulate their lives by the most strict rules of discipline before there arose a necessity for so doing ; and severe exercise, with short diet, became habitual to them by their own choice. The military system of discipline which he introduced, and the preparations he made for
his

his defence. were contrived with so much judgment, and executed with so much address that he has been able, with a handful of men to preserve his post against an attack, the constancy of which, even without the vigour, has been sufficient to exhaust any set of men. Collected within himself, he has in no instance destroyed, by premature attacks, the labour which would cost the enemy time, patience, and expence to compleat; he has never spent his ammunition in useless parade, or in unimportant attacks. He has never relaxed from his discipline by the appearance of security, nor hazarded the lives of his garrison by wild experiments. By a cool and temperate demeanour he maintained his station for four years of constant investment, in which all the powers of *Spain* were employed. All the eyes of *Europe* has been on his garrison, and his conduct has justly exalted him to a most elevated place in the military annals of the present day.

The General married a sister of the present Sir *Francis Drake*, and by her has had a son and a daughter. The son is now Lieut. Colonel of the 6th (or Inniskilling) regiment of dragoons, and the daughter is married to Mr. *Fuller*, of *Bayly Park* in *Suffex*.

His Majesty was graciously pleased in addition to the order of the Bath, to create him a Baron of *England* by the title of Lord *Heathfield*, which he enjoyed but a short time, being ordered at the late armament against *Spain* to proceed to *Gibraltar*, he died on his passage.

F I N I S.

